UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/479
6 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad on 25 May 1998 concerning implementation by Mali of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Moctar OUANE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15884 (E) 090698 090698

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Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad on 25 May 1998

As part of its implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Mali has on this day, 25 May 1998, destroyed its national army's stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

It should be noted that the Malian army has never used these arms in any conflict.

Member States are obliged by article 4 of the Convention, which is both an instrument for disarmament and a humanitarian act, to destroy all stocks of anti-personnel mines.

In addition to the total ban on the use, production and transfer of landmines, the Convention further provides for technical cooperation, assistance for victims, the social rehabilitation of victims, and transparency measures.

The Convention, which was the outcome of the process begun at the Ottawa Conference, was signed on behalf of the Malian Government on 3 December 1997 by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad. Mali ratified the Convention on 10 April 1998, depositing the instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

This step taken by Mali, on the day that commemorates the creation of the Organization of African Unity, is consistent with the policy of micro-disarmament favoured by the highest authorities in the Third Republic.

It is also in keeping with our country's undertakings towards the Organization of African Unity, namely to make Africa a zone free of landmines.

Mali, which is deeply attached to the values of humanism and solidarity, once again shows evidence of the action it takes to safeguard peace and security.

Furthermore, it issues a pressing appeal to all States to support the Ottawa process.

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/480
6 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Ouagadougou in special session on 5 June 1998, regarding the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU, OGW
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15872 (E) 060698 080698

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Annex

Resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on 5 June 1998

The OAU Council of Ministers, meeting in a special session on 5 June 1998,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Central Organ during its meeting of 4 June 1998 in Ouagadougou,

Having heard the report of the facilitators on the evolution of the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea,

Having listened to the interventions of the two parties,

Paying tribute to the work of the facilitators and requesting them to continue,

Considering the gravity of the situation and the loss of lives,

Urgently appeals to the two parties to, at the same time and simultaneously, put an end to all hostilities, accept and implement the recommendations of the facilitators;

Recommends to the Heads of State and Government to be immediately seized of the matter.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/52/947
S/1998/481
8 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 36, 37 and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 8 June 1998 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Following our previous two letters to you dated 29 May (A/52/926-S/1998/444) and 14 May 1998 (A/52/899-S/1998/393), I wish to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, began archaeological excavations in the area of Burj al-Laqlaq inside the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem. These excavations by the Israeli Antiquities Authority are taking place as part of preliminary activities to build an illegal new Jewish settlement in the heart of occupied Arab East Jerusalem.

The State-sponsored excavation work is being carried out following a failed attempt by the extremist Jewish settler group Ateret Cohanim on 25 May 1998 to establish the nucleus of a new settlement in that area. At a later stage, the Israeli Government decided to allow for the excavations to take place as a preliminary step towards building the settlement. Moreover, in tandem with these excavations, the illegal Israeli municipality of Jerusalem began deliberations today on a construction plan for that settlement. Such activities represent continuing attempts by the Israeli municipal and State authorities to judaize Jerusalem and to illegally change the status, demographic composition, and character of the city.

It is worth noting that these above-mentioned excavations are being undertaken in the vicinity of the destroyed Palestinian structure of the Burj al-Laqlaq Society, which was demolished by Israeli forces on 27 August 1996. In this regard, I would like to also refer to a letter we sent to you on 27 August 1996 (A/51/310-S/1996/699), following the illegal

destruction of the building of this charitable organization. I would also like to call your attention to the press statement issued by the President of the Security Council, in response to this demolition, calling upon Israel to refrain from actions that would threaten the peace process.

In addition to the above, another extremist Jewish settler group, Elad, today took over four housing units in the Silwan neighbourhood of Arab East Jerusalem. In overnight activity, the settler group took over those units, as well as a plot of land, instigating clashes with Palestinians in which one Palestinian official was injured.

The activities undertaken by the extremist settler gangs, the excavations and the attempts to build a new settlement in Burj al-Laqlaq, as well as the takeover of housing units in Silwan, all represent an escalation in hostile and provocative Israeli settlement activity in occupied Arab East Jerusalem. They constitute serious and blatant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which is applicable to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. They also violate various relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations that prohibit any attempts to alter the character, demographic composition and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem. In addition, the illegal actions clearly violate the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and seriously threaten recent attempts to reactivate the peace process, which was derailed by illegal settlement activity at Jabal Abu Ghneim, to the south of occupied East Jerusalem.

We expect the international community to take a clear and firm position based on international law and in accordance with United Nations resolutions against all such Israeli violations and illegal practices. The Security Council, as the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, should take the necessary actions in this regard.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

LETTER DATED 8 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to attach a statement by His Excellency Mr. Haile Weldensae, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, on behalf of President Isaias Afwerki, to the Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) being held at Ouagadougou, on the prevailing crisis between my country, Eritrea, and Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-16068 (E) 080698

Annex

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea to the Summit of the Organization of African Unity, held at Ouagadougou

Allow me first to express the utmost gratitude of my Government to His Excellency Blaise Campaore, President of Burkina Faso, and to the people of Burkina Faso for the warm hospitality that has been accorded to us. Allow me also to congratulate the people and Government of Burkina Faso for hosting this year two important occasions: the splendid African Cup of Nations and, of course, this august Summit of the Organization of African Unity Heads of State and Government. May I proceed to convey to you the following message from President Isaias Afwerki, who could not attend this august session, inasmuch as he would have desired to do so, due to the grave developments that face our country.

It saddens me deeply to bring to your attention the dispute between Eritrea and our neighbour, Ethiopia, which has brought the two countries to the brink of war. This is all the more painful as the border dispute in itself is amenable to a legal and peaceful solution, rendering any recourse to force both unnecessary and unjustifiable. At the same time, we are highly appreciative of, and much encouraged by, the concern that Africa's Heads of State and Government, as well as this august assembly have shown to help us overcome this crisis. I was touched by the many African Heads of State and Government who called me to communicate their concern and constructive views and to offer their good offices to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this unfortunate problem. I also wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express the thanks of my Government and people to leaders all over the world who have added their voices and efforts to the search for peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Allow me also to mention that I had communicated with His Excellency Robert Mugabe, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in his capacity as the current chairman of the organization, as well as to Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim, so as to ensure that Africa and the OAU would not only be seized of the matter, but would also make a significant contribution to peace.

I do not wish to go into detail to explain the nature of our problem with the Government of Ethiopia. I would rather prefer to concentrate on our views and concrete proposals for defusing the current explosive situation and finding a legal and durable solution.

As Your Excellencies are only too well aware, this is not the first border dispute between two African countries, as well as among neighbours in other continents. As it happens, the colonial boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia is among the most clearly defined colonial boundaries; indeed, it was established by a series of international treaties at the beginning of this century and has remained unchanged for over 90 years. Even, if despite this fact, differences arise, the understanding between the two Governments was that these could be settled bilaterally and amicably.

Unfortunately, the Government of Ethiopia has, over the past few years, been encroaching upon Eritrean territory, forcibly bringing under its control Eritrean areas that Ethiopia has now claimed are Ethiopian. To this day, the Ethiopian army remains inside the boundaries of Eritrea in the Setit, Mareb and Bada areas.

These are grave acts of aggression, as they involve a re-drawing of the recognized colonial boundaries in clear violation of the OAU Charter. They could also set a dangerous precedent. And yet the problem still could have been solved peacefully and legally. It is this conviction that prompted the Government of Eritrea to propose a full demilitarization of all border areas, pending the demarcation of the entire boundary between the two countries on the basis of the recognition and respect of the colonial treaties.

The Government of Eritrea further underlined that the question of temporary administration of the civilian centres in the demilitarized areas could be handled with necessary flexibility in the interim period, as the jurisdiction of the sovereign State could be reinstated as soon as the demarcation of the boundary is completed.

The recommendations that emerged from the facilitation process, and to which we contributed positively, have embodied these salient requirements and, therefore, form a good basis for a comprehensive solution. But if the real objective is genuinely to defuse the crisis, avoid war and achieve a peaceful settlement, rather than scoring short-term propaganda and diplomatic gains, we must also insist and ensure that the fundamental issues of detail and implementation be addressed satisfactorily. The premature announcement of the recommendations before discussions on these outstanding issues were exhausted was not helpful, as it has led to confusion and complications.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the real stumbling block to a speedy and genuine solution is not differences over general principles or the temporary authority over civilian centres in the demilitarized areas. The real stumbling block to peace is Ethiopia's logic of force and spiral of measures which have begun by blowing the problem out of proportion and have ended up escalating the conflict to the brink of full-scale war.

Even as it pays lip service to peace, Ethiopia has tread on the path of war. On the same day that it professed acceptance of the facilitators' recommendations, the Government of Ethiopia announced that: "Ethiopia's armed forces have been given orders today" to mount attacks on Eritrea. This is a re-declaration of war, as Ethiopia had earlier threatened Eritrea with full-scale war unless it bowed to Ethiopia's continued occupation of territories that it claims.

In line with this belligerent policy of imposing its wishes through force and intimidation, the Government of Ethiopia has taken a number of hostile and illegal actions that have precluded the relaxation of the tensions and continued to escalate the conflict. Thus, Ethiopia's air strike on the Eritrean capital, Asmara, on Friday, 6 June 1998, just a day after the Government had given orders to the armed forces, has threatened to transform a border dispute into a state of war between the two nations. Ethiopia has now gone to the extent of

threatening that it will attack any commercial aircraft in Eritrean airspace and any vessels in Eritrean ports. This is intolerable to any sovereign State.

I have briefly attempted to present our views on the causes and measures that have transformed what was an easily solvable border dispute into a major crisis between two member States of the organization. I would now like to turn my attention to the more important issue of a solution to the current crisis. In that context, allow me to present the following proposals for your consideration:

1. The Government of Eritrea renews its call for an end to all hostilities. This has been Eritrea's position all along. The Government of Eritrea has also insisted on a full demilitarization of the border areas that will ensure that hostilities, once stopped, will not recur. On the other hand, Ethiopia has yet to clearly renounce the use of force as a means of solving this problem.

2. The Government of Eritrea calls for the start of direct talks between Eritrea and Ethiopia in the presence of high-level mediators. This, we believe, will ensure a speedy resolution, as the facilitation process that has been under way, while very positive and fruitful, has been a roundabout and time-consuming process. In the explosive circumstances obtaining between the two countries, in which their armies are facing each other all along their common borders, a mechanism that ensures a timely and legally binding solution is crucial.

3. The Government of Eritrea requests of this august summit of Heads of State and Government that it establish an African mechanism at the highest possible level to ensure that our continent and our organization, the Organization of African Unity, make a decisive contribution to the efforts to find peace between two African neighbours.

The unfortunate conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia poses yet another test of the strength and resilience of our organization. I am confident that Africa and the OAU will rise up to the challenge and help us and our Ethiopian neighbours achieve peace and direct our undivided attention once again to the task of nation-building.

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S/1998/483
9 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I reproduce herewith a message from my President, His Excellency Mr. Isaias Afwerki, addressed to you as President of the Security Council, concerning Ethiopia's declaration of war against my country and the grave consequences of its push for an all out war. The message was faxed to me this morning.

"Your Excellency is aware that the Government of Ethiopia had declared war on Eritrea pursuant to the resolution passed by its Parliament on 13 May 1998. The Government of Ethiopia has been attempting to execute this resolution by unleashing continuous attacks in several areas along the border between the two countries. Ethiopia has also been issuing additional ultimatums and war threats to reinforce this declaration.

The Ethiopian Government has aggravated the crisis by starting an air strike against Asmara, Eritrea's capital, on 5 June 1998. Its endeavours to strangulate Eritrea by attempting to cut off commercial air traffic, as well as maritime access to the ports of Massawa and Assab by threatening to wage indiscriminate air strikes in Eritrean airspace, is an act of war and has created a very dangerous situation.

Ethiopia surely cannot keep hostage the Eritrean people and the international community by these illegal threats and bluffs. The international community should not tolerate and acquiesce to these unlawful acts, but deplore them in the strongest possible terms, as well as take the requisite action to put an end to these illegal practices. The Government of Eritrea underlines the fact that Ethiopia will bear full responsibility for the consequences that may ensue if this dangerous situation is not checked.

Isaias Afwerki
President
The State of Eritrea"

98-16185 (E) 090698

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I also enclose a press release on the fresh attacks by Ethiopia this morning, and the threats of a widening war (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Annex

Press Release issued by the Government of Eritrea on
9 June 1998

Ethiopia launches a fresh attack in the Zalambesa area

The Ethiopian army has launched a fresh attack on Eritrean positions in the Zalambesa area. The attack started at around 5.15 this morning.

Ethiopia has been stepping up preparations for this attack since last Thursday (4 June 1998) when it publicly announced that it had given orders to the country's armed forces to take action against Eritrea. These preparations have involved bringing reinforcements of manpower and heavy artillery to the area. Ethiopia has also been insisting that all foreigners leave Asmara to pave the way for its plans to mount indiscriminate air attacks on the civilian population.

The Ethiopian attack comes only a day after Eritrea had renewed its call, at the Organization of African Unity summit in Ouagadougou, for the cessation of all hostilities and the start of direct talks in the presence of high level mediators.

The Government of Eritrea condemns this fresh attack, which is yet additional proof that Ethiopia is bent on war. It had earlier unleashed five attacks in the past two weeks. In what was a dangerous escalation of border skirmishes into a wider conflict, Ethiopia had started air attacks on Asmara on 5 June last week. Violating Eritrea's sovereignty, Ethiopia has virtually imposed a blockade of Eritrea's airspace and port activities by threatening to attack commercial aircraft entering the country, as well as civilian vessels calling at the Eritrean ports of Assab and Massawa. This act of war is intolerable to any sovereign State.

The Government of Eritrea once again underlines that force cannot resolve the dispute whose only solution lies in peace and legality. While reiterating its call for a cessation of hostilities, the Government of Eritrea affirms that it has no option but to confront these attacks resolutely in order to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as Ethiopia doggedly persists in launching a wave of offensives in line with the declaration of war that its Parliament announced on 13 May 1998.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1998/484
9 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 8 AND 9 JUNE 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

By order of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter addressed to you by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Sulaiman AL-SAEID
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

98-16197 (E) 090698 090698

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Annex

Identical letters dated 8 June 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to draw your attention to a statement made recently by the Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, which called into question Security Council resolution 833 (1993) concerning the demarcation of the boundary between the State of Kuwait and Iraq, and which was followed by another statement affirming that Iraq distrusted the resolutions establishing international legitimacy, on the grounds that the Security Council had never before in its history adopted any resolution on the demarcation of the boundary between two countries and that the issue was a matter of national sovereignty that came within the competence of the two neighbouring States.

Statements of this type represent a serious threat to the sovereignty, security and integrity of the State of Kuwait. They reveal both the persistence of Iraq's hostile intentions towards the State of Kuwait and its real attitude towards the Security Council resolutions concerning its aggression against my country, as well as its obstinacy in continuing to flout the will of the international community.

In this connection, it should be emphasized that the demarcation of the coordinates of the boundary between the State of Kuwait and Iraq was effected accurately and faithfully by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, on the basis of the agreements concluded between the two countries and of the records, evidence and documentation submitted by each of them, as reaffirmed in Security Council resolution 833 (1993), by which the Council endorsed the outcome of the Commission's work and considered that outcome to be final.

In expressing my country's concern about and reprobation of the content of these dangerous statements, I call upon the international community to take practical measures of deterrence to guarantee the inviolability of the boundary approved by the Security Council in its resolution 833 (1993) and the full implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Council.

Considering the extremely serious implications of these official Iraqi statements for the security and stability of my country and of the entire region, I hope that this letter will be circulated to friendly States Members of the United Nations as an official document of the Organization.

(Signed) Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber AL-SABAH
First Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/485
9 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, I have the honour to forward herewith, the text of the resolution (in English and French) which was adopted on 5 June 1998 by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in a special session on the situation relating to the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Machivenyika T. MAPURANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe
to the United Nations
Representative of the OAU
Current Chairman

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on 5 June 1998

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in a special session on 5 June 1998,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Central Organ during its meeting of 4 June 1998 in Ouagadougou,

Having heard the report of the facilitators on the evolution of the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea,

Having listened to the interventions of the two parties,

Paying tribute to the work of the facilitators and requesting them to continue,

Considering the gravity of the situation and the loss of lives,

Urgently appeals to the two parties to, at the same time and simultaneously, put an end to all hostilities, accept and implement the recommendations of the facilitators,

Recommends to the Heads of State and Government to be immediately seized of the matter.

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S/1998/486
9 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FIFTH REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 1162 (1998) of 17 April 1998, the Security Council authorized the deployment, with immediate effect, of up to 10 United Nations military liaison and security advisory personnel in accordance with paragraph 44 of my report of 18 March 1998 (S/1998/249) to Sierra Leone for a period of up to 90 days, to work under the authority of my Special Envoy, to coordinate closely with the Government of Sierra Leone and with ECOMOG, the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to report on the military situation in the country, to ascertain the state of and to assist in the finalization of planning by the Government of Sierra Leone and ECOMOG for future tasks, such as the identification of the former combatant elements to be disarmed and the design of a disarmament plan, as well as to perform other related security tasks as identified in other paragraphs of my above-mentioned report.

2. By paragraph 10 of that resolution, the Council requested me to report periodically, including on the activities of those military liaison and security advisory personnel and on the work of the office of my Special Envoy in Sierra Leone, within the reporting time-frame set out in paragraph 16 of resolution 1132 (1998) of 8 October 1997. The present report is submitted in accordance with that time-frame, by which the Security Council requested the submission of a report every 60 days.

II. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MY LAST REPORT

Action taken by the Government of Sierra Leone

3. Following its restoration on 10 March 1998, the Government of Sierra Leone has acted to consolidate its authority throughout the country as far as possible. On 16 March, President Kabbah, acting with the support of Parliament, proclaimed a state of emergency empowering him to take measures to ensure security and stability. These measures included the right to detain suspects and restrict their movements, the imposition of a curfew and the right to

requisition property. The Government also announced the expulsion of 22 persons and the deprivation of 10 others of Sierra Leonean citizenship for collaborating with the junta and for economic crimes and immigration irregularities.

4. On 20 March 1998, President Kabbah announced that his new streamlined Cabinet would comprise persons of known competence and integrity. The members of the Cabinet, which consists of 15 Ministers, 11 Deputy Ministers and 5 Ministers of State, have all been confirmed by Parliament, as have the President's nominees for the post of Chief Justice and many positions in parastatal bodies. The President has also appointed a Policy Advisory Committee to guide the Government on crucial issues of national interest and to monitor the functioning of the public institutions.

5. The Government has also taken steps to establish a National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, responsible for stimulating and coordinating related donor, Government and non-governmental activities. In accordance with its terms of reference, the National Commission would, in close collaboration with domestic and international funding agencies, draw up a two-year national rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction plan involving, inter alia, the repatriation and resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees.

6. On 27 March 1998, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe, Mr. Stan Mudenge, led a five-person Commonwealth delegation on a visit to Freetown in order to explore ways in which the Commonwealth could assist Sierra Leone in the task of national reconstruction and peace-building. At the conclusion of the visit, the participants announced that they would urge all member Governments of the Commonwealth to assist Sierra Leone bilaterally in every practicable way in its efforts to achieve national reconstruction and reconciliation, and to contribute to the Trust Fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone.

7. On 21 April 1998, a three-man team of British police experts visited Sierra Leone to advise the Government on the restructuring of the police force and the improvement of its equipment. The team also discussed the recruitment and role of police advisers and relations between the police and armed forces, among other matters. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has also provided the Government with communications equipment for the police.

8. From 4 to 8 May 1998, the Government received a multi-donor joint mission by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the European Union (EU) to discuss a range of development-related matters. The joint mission also discussed the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, as described in more detail in section V below.

9. As described in section III below, on 6 May 1998, the Government instituted, in Freetown, the trials of a number of persons accused of plotting, participating in or collaborating with the coup d'état and the illegal junta.

10. On 22 May 1998, President Kabbah, in a comprehensive policy statement delivered at the State opening of the second session of Parliament, outlined major national policies his Government intends to pursue. These include: establishing guidelines for development activities, a framework for the creation of a new army and the restructuring and retraining of the police force; improving relations with neighbouring countries; reviving the national economy; strengthening key sectors of activity; and promoting civic education to sensitize Sierra Leoneans to the true meaning of peace and democracy. The President has also called for national reconciliation.

11. From 30 to 31 May 1998, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Charles Margai, and the Deputy Defence Minister, Chief Hinga Norman, visited Makeni and Kenema and called on all remnants of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front (AFRC/RUF) forces to surrender within two weeks, promising them that they would be protected and treated fairly in accordance with the law.

12. On 4 June 1998, at a summit meeting of the leaders of the three Mano River Union countries, President Conteh and President Kabbah of Sierra Leone met at Conakry to discuss mutual cooperation in the subregion and relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Liberia was represented by the Vice-President, Mr. Enoch Dogolea.

Action taken by the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States

13. Following the expulsion of the illegal military junta from the capital, Freetown, in mid-February and the restoration of the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in the capital, ECOMOG moved swiftly to secure the area around Freetown, as well as the northern and southern provinces of the country, especially the towns of Makeni, Kambia and Kabala in the north and Bo and Kenema in the south. ECOMOG forces also advanced eastwards towards the Kono and Kailahun districts, where the forces of the former junta were concentrated.

14. Though ECOMOG has continued to make progress, it is severely overextended and its advance has been beset by logistical constraints, as well as by fierce resistance from elements of the AFRC and the RUF, the partners in the former junta. In mid-May, however, ECOMOG seized Koindu and Buedu on the eastern border of Sierra Leone with Guinea.

15. As ECOMOG troops approached, armed former junta elements attacked the local civilian population, killing, raping and mutilating hundreds of them, causing tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans to flee into Liberia and Guinea in the last few weeks and tens of thousands more to flee into the interior of Sierra Leone. Hundreds of patients have been admitted to hospitals suffering from amputation of limbs and ears and severe lacerations. Humanitarian organizations fear that the actual number of victims may be much larger (see sect. III below).

16. ECOMOG is being supported by units of the Sierra Leonean Civil Defence Force (CDF), which is composed of irregular community-based fighters who fought the junta before the restoration of the legitimate Government. The Civil

Defence Force includes Kamajors, who are regionally based rural militia mainly from the south and parts of the east, as well as Tamaboros from the Koinadugu district, Donsos from the Kono district and Kapras, who are mainly from the Tonkolili district in the north. Though many CDF members are hunters who use traditional weapons, others are primarily farmers or students who joined the armed struggle against the junta. They are armed with a wide variety of weapons and often lack formal training and discipline. Though technically under ECOMOG control, their command and control structures are loose and informal.

17. On 4 and 5 May 1998 at Accra, my Special Envoy attended the seventeenth meeting of ECOWAS Chiefs of Staff convened to discuss the situation in Sierra Leone. At the meeting, the Nigerian Chief of Defence Staff, Major-General A. A. Abubakar, outlined ECOMOG's objectives in Sierra Leone as follows: the attainment of peace, the training of a new Sierra Leonean army, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Sierra Leonean combatants into society, accompanied by humanitarian assistance. The achievement of these objectives would be followed by the withdrawal of ECOMOG.

18. ECOMOG has deployed three brigades and an independent battalion, altogether comprising approximately 12,000 men, in Sierra Leone and has appealed for a further 6,000 to enable it to carry out its functions more effectively. A number of participants expressed willingness, in principle, to contribute forces to ECOMOG's operations in Sierra Leone. However, the countries concerned stressed that they were not in a position to do so without substantial financial and logistical assistance.

Action taken by the United Nations

19. Beginning on 4 May 1998, pursuant to resolution 1162 (1998), eight military liaison personnel were deployed in Freetown under the authority of my Special Envoy. The military officers, who are led by a Brigadier-General from India, are from Kenya (two), the Russian Federation (two), the United Kingdom (one) and Zambia (two). Two police advisers, one from Namibia and one from Kenya, as well as an adviser on planning for disarmament and demobilization, are expected to be deployed shortly. Some vehicles and communications equipment have also been deployed to Sierra Leone for the use of the officers.

20. The liaison officers have begun to travel through parts of the country to assess the situation with a view to finalizing plans for their deployment and for the disarmament of former combatants. The ECOMOG Force Commander, Brigadier-General Maxwell Khobe, has welcomed their arrival and promised his full cooperation.

21. The office of my Special Envoy has also been strengthened by the addition of a political affairs officer and a human rights adviser. In addition, I have taken steps to strengthen the human rights element of the office of my Special Envoy and have approached a number of Governments on an urgent basis to request them to make available suitably qualified trial monitors.

22. From 26 to 29 May 1998, my Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict, Mr. Olara A. Otunnu, visited Sierra Leone to assess the plight of children affected by the conflict. During his visit, Mr. Otunnu met with

President Kabbah, Ministers and Parliamentarians, as well as with the Force Commander of ECOMOG, the National Coordinator of CDF and representatives of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. He visited Daru, Segbwema and Kenema, accompanied by the Minister for Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Mrs. Shirley Gbujama, my Special Envoy, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the representative of UNICEF.

23. In discussions with the Government, ECOMOG and CDF, important commitments were made to my Special Representative in relation to the rights, protection and welfare of children. It was agreed that a joint task force for the demobilization of child combatants, comprising the Government, ECOMOG, CDF, the United Nations and international humanitarian agencies, would be constituted. The Government agreed not to recruit children under 18 years of age into a new national army. The Civil Defence Force committed to stop recruiting and initiating children under 18 and to begin the process of demobilization of child combatants within their ranks. Along with ECOMOG, CDF also undertook that children captured in or fleeing from areas held by junta elements would receive special protection. President Kabbah directed that a coordination group consisting of relevant Ministries, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, be established to coordinate an effective national response to the needs of children affected by armed conflict. Following their discussion with Mr. Otunnu, an all-party group of Parliamentarians constituted a caucus to serve as parliamentary advocates for the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by armed conflict in Sierra Leone.

24. At the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Otunnu proposed that the international community make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects for a more concerted and effective response in the context of post-conflict peace-building.

Military and security situation in Sierra Leone

25. The security situation in Freetown continues to be favourable, with a strong but discreet ECOMOG presence and widespread deployment of the Sierra Leonean police. Schools, banks and markets are functioning normally, some international air links to the airport at Lungi have been restored and food and fuel products are widely available. Nevertheless, ECOMOG has continued to recover weapons in house-to-house searches conducted on the basis of information received about the presence in Freetown of former junta members and common criminals.

26. Despite ECOMOG's initial success in driving the elements of the junta rebels back towards the east of the country, several groups of rebels appear to have broken out of the Kailahun district and have moved northwards and westwards in an apparent attempt to re-establish some of their former bush camps in the north. They have been attacking towns and villages, terrorizing local communities and extorting food from them. The situation in the north is now considered unsatisfactory and food convoys have to be guarded by armed escort.

27. Moreover, in the course of their retreat towards the eastern part of the country, former junta elements inflicted extensive damage and engaged in indiscriminate looting and property destruction. In particular, hospitals in most communities lack beds, drugs and equipment.

28. The United States has contributed $3.9 million to ECOMOG over a four-month period through the logistics services company Pacific Architects and Engineers, which provided services to ECOMOG in Liberia. Some vehicles have already been made available. It is anticipated that this assistance will result in further gains by ECOMOG against the former junta forces. However, this contribution is not expected to assist in the deployment of additional ECOMOG forces, for which further contributions, whether bilaterally or through the Trust Fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone, will be needed.

29. There are reports that many of the fighters supporting the former junta in the east are in fact Liberian nationals. The Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States believes it has identified some of the dead combatants as Liberians after clashes with junta elements and has reportedly captured more than 100 Liberian fighters in the vicinity of Kailahun and in Kono district.

30. On 5 May 1998, President Taylor wrote to me deprecating the "disturbing allegation" that the Government of Liberia was involved in the conflict in Sierra Leone and stressing his commitment to the maintenance of peace in the region. President Taylor informed me that he had proposed to the Chairman of ECOWAS that ECOMOG "cordon off" the border between the two countries, and said he would welcome the concurrence of the United Nations with his suggestion that United Nations monitors be deployed in the border area.

31. On 7 May 1998, the Liberian Government issued a policy statement reaffirming that it would not permit its territory to be used to destabilize any neighbouring country and stating that President Taylor had approved the deployment of an ECOMOG observer unit at the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone in Lofa County, Liberia.

32. The Government of Sierra Leone has welcomed the issuance of the policy statement and has disclosed that a Liberian delegation visiting Freetown to attend the funeral of the late spouse of the President, Mrs. Patricia Kabbah, had met with President Kabbah and discussed the improvement of relations between the two countries.

33. In some parts of the country, misconduct by some members of CDF, arising from their indiscipline and lack of training, has given rise to complaints from civilians.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS

34. Since early May 1998, a human rights adviser has been attached to the office of my Special Envoy. His main tasks have included the observation of the treason trials and, in close consultation with the Special Envoy and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, examining modalities to increase the capacity of the office to monitor the human rights situation in Sierra Leone and to assist the Government in meeting its international human rights obligations in a sustainable manner. In carrying out its human rights functions, the office will work closely with all relevant elements of civil society, including national and international non-governmental organizations. Both the

Attorney-General and the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone have offered their full cooperation to my Special Envoy and his staff in the exercise of his human rights functions.

35. The main focus of human rights concerns since my last report has been the attacks on civilians by armed, uniformed groups, which are consistently reported to be members of the rebel forces. They have systematically mutilated or severed the limbs of non-combatants around the towns of Koidu and Kabala, in a zone that stretches as far west as Masiaka, south of Port Loko. The scale of the attacks can be estimated from the accounts of victims who have been admitted to hospital. For instance, in the period from 6 April to 21 May 1998, 225 people were admitted to Connaught Hospital in Freetown with war wounds. All but one were reported to be civilians. Of these, a quarter were amputees and half were victims of deep lacerations. The patients report that for every one person who reached the hospital, some five other victims of attacks are either dead or missing. In the same period, there have been some 500 admissions of war-wounded persons to other hospitals in Sierra Leone.

36. Of those victims who have received treatment, most are male, ranging in age from 8 to 60 years. The youngest amputee admitted to hospital is, however, a six-year-old girl, one of whose arms was completely severed. Victims also report that babies have been taken from their mothers' arms and burned alive. There are numerous reports of rape, including one of the multiple rape of a 12-year-old girl. Doctors at one hospital state that lacerations inflicted on one 60-year-old woman are the result of a failed attempt to behead her.

37. The office of my Special Envoy continues to receive information about human rights abuses perpetrated by forces loyal to the junta in the period before the restoration of the Government. From all parts of the country there are reports of extrajudicial killings, rape, arbitrary detention, including for purposes of sexual abuse, torture of children (especially of child-combatants), forced labour and the looting and destruction of residential and commercial premises and property. It will remain important to document these actions with a view to tackling issues of impunity and as an element in the process of promoting reconciliation and healing of society.

38. Information has also been received regarding widespread acts of extrajudicial revenge killings perpetrated against alleged junta collaborators following the restoration of the Government. In just one town, Kenema, there are reports of some 50 revenge killings. Some of those killed were children, with at least one case occurring in Freetown. There are reportedly still many people in hiding for fear of being subjected to revenge attacks. Reportedly some 100 of those hiding in the Freetown area are children. The Government has given assurances that revenge attacks will be investigated and prosecuted.

39. Reports indicate that elements of the Kamajors are responsible for violation of the human rights and rights under humanitarian law of both combatants and non-combatants. This militia force continues to include large numbers of male children. Concerns have been expressed to the Government on these matters and it has indicated that it is taking action to correct the situation (see paras. 22-24 above).

40. My Special Envoy continues to monitor the implementation of the state of emergency declared by the President on 10 March 1998, under which, inter alia, persons may be detained indefinitely without being charged or tried. There are more than 1,000 such detainees held at Pademba Road Prison in Freetown. The Government has established a screening committee to expedite the process of releasing detainees and bringing others to trial.

41. The Government is prosecuting 59 persons in the regular courts for charges, variously, of treason, murder and arson. Another trial of some 20 people is scheduled to start in the coming weeks, as are a number of courts martial. The civilian trials have, so far, proceeded in conformity with normal criminal procedure. Matters of concern are brought to the attention of the Government. The office of my Special Envoy will continue to observe the trials and will seek to augment its capacity in this regard.

42. On 27 May 1998, a delegation of Amnesty International, which had been studying the situation in Sierra Leone, met with my Special Envoy. The purpose of the Amnesty mission was to examine incidents that had occurred during the period of junta rule, as well as the extent of atrocities currently being committed by the remnants of the junta. Amnesty International is also reviewing the detention and trial in Freetown of persons accused of participating in or collaborating with the junta.

IV. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

43. The humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone is fluid. In the western area and the southern and eastern provinces (with the exception of Kailahun district), aid agencies have begun to reactivate programmes as they have benefited from improved security and access. In northern and north-eastern Sierra Leone, however, the situation has continued to deteriorate as a result of the activity of the former junta forces described above.

44. The humanitarian consequences of the wave of atrocities are very severe. Government hospitals in Makeni, Magburaka and Kabala and health clinics throughout the north have been overwhelmed by the influx of civilians suffering from amputations and maimings and are hampered by staff shortages and logistical constraints.

45. There has already been an outbreak of measles in two camps in the north and there is a severe risk of further outbreaks of epidemics such as cholera with the imminent onset of the rainy season. Furthermore, the non-governmental organization Action contre la Faim, which operates therapeutic feeding centres in Makeni and Magburaka, has reported a large influx of malnourished children under the age of five. Admissions have doubled during the past week. Malnutrition levels are increasing, and there are indications that the 10 per cent global acute malnutrition threshold, at which an emergency response is required, is being breached. If the security situation in the north continues to deteriorate, there is a serious risk that the harvest will be looted by armed elements, thus further undermining the food security of the rural population.

46. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that refugees from Sierra Leone are continuing to flow into Faranah, Kissidougou and Guéckédou prefectures in eastern Guinea at a rate of 300 people per day. Many new arrivals, particularly children, suffer from malnutrition. UNHCR has documented the recent cases of at least 82 victims of rebel atrocities, including 28 who were mutilated. The refugees come mainly from the districts of Kailahun, Kono and Kenema. The influx is taking place despite reported attempts by the remnants of the junta to prevent people from leaving those areas. At the same time, about 40,000 internally displaced persons have flooded into the towns of Masingbi, Makeni, Kabala and Magburaka. Over the past three months, some 237,000 Sierra Leoneans have poured into Guinea and Liberia, bringing the total number of Sierra Leonean refugees in the two neighbouring countries to 530,000 people since the start of the conflict in 1991.

47. On 2 June 1998, UNHCR issued an urgent appeal for $7.3 million to help refugees who have fled from the rebel forces. The amount is designed to cover relief assistance to new arrivals in Guinea and Liberia until the end of the year. This followed a visit to Freetown from 2 to 3 June 1998 by the Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Soren Jessen-Petersen.

48. The humanitarian response to the crisis in the north has been severely constrained by the difficulty of access owing to security risks. Road travel from Freetown to Makeni and Koidu is restricted, since agencies are reluctant to travel by road for fear of attacks. Furthermore, many aid agency staff were threatened by AFRC/RUF elements during the period of the ECOMOG intervention and no relief agency has deployed international staff permanently up-country since then.

49. Nevertheless, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the non-governmental organization Médecins sans Frontières have sent medicines, bedding and plastic sheeting to the north. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins sans Frontières have offered to coordinate the joint distribution of medical supplies to hospitals in Makeni, Magburaka and Kabala. UNICEF has delivered supplies to Kenema and supported efforts by the local authorities to immunize more than 400 children against measles, and the World Food Programme (WFP) is providing assistance to health institutions.

50. From 5 to 6 May 1998, the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit also co-sponsored a workshop for community leaders in the Bo district concerning the code of conduct that governs the activities of relief workers. The workshop was planned in response to incidents of the commandeering of vehicles by Kamajors and ECOMOG in the area. Non-governmental organizations have since reported that the Kamajors have facilitated the safe passage of relief supplies and it is now intended to conduct similar workshops in other parts of the country, including Kenema.

51. An inter-agency mission led by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator on 19 May 1998 to Daru and Segbwema found the situation in the south-east of the country, which had been inaccessible for some months for security reasons, more favourable than expected in some respects. However, large numbers of

unaccompanied children were identified who are in need of family-tracing services, feeding and health care.

52. Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, will visit Sierra Leone from 10 to 12 June 1998 in order to observe at first hand the ongoing humanitarian programmes and the current difficulties faced by the humanitarian community.

V. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

53. Both the Abidjan Agreement of 30 November 1996 between the Government of Sierra Leone and RUF and the Conakry Agreement of 23 October 1997 between ECOWAS and AFRC contain provisions for the disarmament and demobilization of Sierra Leonean fighters and their reintegration into society. In his statement at the State opening of Parliament, President Kabbah called on all remnants of the AFRC/RUF to surrender, offering them assurances that they would be treated humanely in accordance with the Geneva Convention and its additional Protocols. The President also indicated that elements of the Conakry Agreement and the Abidjan Agreement would be taken into consideration in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization programme. The prompt implementation of such a programme is regarded as essential to the stability of Sierra Leone and of the subregion in general.

54. Following the removal of the junta by force by ECOMOG in February and the subsequent ECOMOG action throughout the rest of the country, the Abidjan Agreement and the Conakry Agreement are considered to have been effectively superseded. However, in the parts of the country that have now been brought under Government control, some aspects of those instruments that govern the disarmament and demobilization of former Sierra Leonean fighters might still be applicable. These include the following categories: members of the former Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces (RSLMF), including members of AFRC, the country's former army, which has now effectively been dissolved; members of RUF; members of CDF; and child soldiers.

55. Both ECOMOG and the Government have developed plans for the disarmament and demobilization of former combatants and for their reintegration into society. Pursuant to the recommendations of the joint mission described in paragraph 8 above, the Government has adopted a comprehensive framework for the disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration of ex-combatants and their families. The plan envisages the establishment of a Sierra Leone veterans assistance board to be chaired by President Kabbah, which would, in close cooperation with ECOMOG, the United Nations and donors, supervise the disarmament and demobilization of an estimated 32,000 former combatants in three phases, provisionally over the next 19 months. A small executive secretariat will be charged with the implementation of the policies of the Board in close coordination with ECOMOG and the United Nations.

56. The demobilization process will begin with a rigorous registration process to ensure that eligible ex-combatants receive identification documents. The first priority is the demobilization of some 5,000 to 7,000 former members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces already disarmed by ECOMOG and

assembled in camps around Freetown, i.e., at Wilberforce Barracks, Benguema Training Centre and Lungi. ECOMOG has recently reported that the numbers of men at each camp have fallen, apparently because some of the men have been provisionally released. Units of CDF in parts of the country deemed secure by the Government and local authorities will also be demobilized in phase I and will undergo a similar and registration exercise. Some CDF units have already returned to their communities of origin in preparation for the disarmament process, though many CDF fighters have also recently been moved up to the Daru area, apparently to join the offensive against the former junta forces at Kailahun. On 25 March 1998, President Kabbah formally requested the international community to provide food for the maintenance of the 7,000 ex-combatants for a two-month period.

57. Preliminary estimates indicate that there are some 1,000 disabled soldiers, 500 female ex-combatants and about 2,500 children. Under the plan, all adult ex-combatants will receive the same reinsertion assistance, the level and nature of which will be determined by the Sierra Leone Veterans Assistance Board, in consultation with donors. The reinsertion assistance will be provided in instalments in order to provide a transitional safety net to ex-combatant families, to encourage them to remain in their areas of resettlement and to monitor their reintegration progress. Furthermore, the Government intends to provide a community-based social and economic reintegration assistance to assist ex-combatants to return to sustainable and productive lives in their communities. Particularly vulnerable groups of ex-combatants, such as child soldiers and the disabled, will receive specialized assistance.

58. The Government intends to proceed with the disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration process as far as possible, notwithstanding continuing fighting in some parts of the country. The rapid demobilization of the encamped RSLMF will reduce the security and cost burden borne by the Government and ECOMOG in maintaining the camps. Insofar as adequate reinsertion and reintegration assistance and effective monitoring systems are put in place as planned, the Government is confident that this process will contribute to national reconciliation and reconstruction.

59. Though the plan envisages specific phases, provisionally scheduled to culminate in January 2000, these depend in part on the willingness of those who are still resisting ECOMOG's advance and terrorizing civilians in the north to surrender. It is not clear at this time whether these men, who appear to include the most violent and ruthless supporters of the former junta, intend to surrender or, if so, under what circumstances this might take place.

60. Another important aspect of the plan that remains to be clarified concerns the source of the funding. The plan is not accompanied by a cost estimate, but an earlier Government assessment of the likely costs arrived at a figure of some $14 million. Since that estimate was arrived at in respect of a more modest operation, the likely cost of the current exercise is likely to exceed it. No commitment has yet been made by donors for the funding of the exercise. However, the Government believes it has made some progress in identifying sufficient funds to continue to feed the surrendered soldiers for the next two months or so.

61. On 5 June 1998, my Special Envoy convened a meeting of United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donor representatives to discuss the coordination of international support and contributions to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the 7,000 ex-combatants.

62. On 12 June 1998, the World Bank, which participated in the multi-donor joint mission mentioned in paragraph 8 above, will send two consultants to Sierra Leone to discuss with all participants the further refinement of the plan, including practical arrangements to make it operationally effective. These arrangements are expected to include the provision of strong technical assistance to the executive secretariat of the Sierra Leone Veterans Assistance Board.

VI. PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS

63. In the complex and volatile situation currently prevailing in Sierra Leone, the priority task is to promote stability and security by disarming and demobilizing as many former combatants as possible, as soon as possible. The plan adopted by the Government on the advice of the multi-donor joint mission provides a useful basis to accomplish this goal, though much remains to be done in terms of identifying sources of funding and determining the precise roles to be played by the international community. In general terms, I would envisage that, under the overall authority of the Government, my Special Envoy would ensure that the various donors continued to coordinate their activities closely. Within that framework the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), working through the United Nations Office for Project Services, and in close cooperation with donors and implementing partners, would carry out the arrangements put in place for disarmament and demobilization prior to the May 1997 coup.

64. In this context, I intend to convene a high-level conference in the near future in order to mobilize assistance for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and for the reconstruction, rehabilitation of Sierra Leone. The conference would also address the need to provide logistical and other support to ECOMOG in order to improve its capacity to carry out its peacekeeping role, as well as for emergency and humanitarian needs.

65. Moreover, I believe the United Nations could render immediate assistance to Sierra Leone by deploying a limited number of unarmed military observers to assist in tasks of pressing importance. Such a deployment at this stage could lend much-needed impetus to a fragile but vital process, which deserves the support of the international community. It could also assist my Special Envoy to avert further bloodshed among civilians and combatants alike - both ECOMOG and Sierra Leonean - by helping to encourage the surrender of former junta elements in the event that this appeared to be possible. Finally, a more visible United Nations presence could serve to bolster the confidence of the Government and people of Sierra Leone in the commitment to their cause of the international community and encourage more substantial donor support for disarmament, demobilization and longer-term rehabilitation and development.

66. I have therefore developed a concept of operations for a United Nations peacekeeping observer mission, initially for a six-month period, whose immediate objectives would be the following:

(a) To monitor the military and security situation in the country as a whole with a view to assisting the Government and ECOMOG in the subsequent implementation of disarmament and demobilization phases as outlined in the Government's plan;

(b) To monitor the demobilization of former combatants already disarmed by ECOMOG and concentrated in secure areas of the country. This would involve collaboration with ECOMOG in its activities, including the provision of security and arms collection and destruction;

(c) To assist in monitoring respect for international humanitarian law at disarmament and demobilization sites;

(d) To monitor the voluntary disarmament and demobilization of members of CDF in their home regions and to monitor progress in the creation of a new national army;

(e) To observe, as security conditions permit, the situation in the north and east of the country, with a view to assisting in the disarmament and demobilization of surrendering former junta forces;

(f) To continue to provide my Special Envoy for Sierra Leone with regular information concerning the military and security situation in the country as a whole.

67. The mission would be known as the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and would be led by my Special Envoy, Mr. Francis G. Okelo, who would be designated Special Representative for Sierra Leone. The Chief Military Observer would be Brigadier-General Subhash C. Joshi (India), who is currently the team leader of the small military liaison cell deployed to Sierra Leone pursuant to resolution 1162 (1998). UNOMSIL would subsume the office of my Special Envoy and its staff and the related cost estimates will be issued shortly as an addendum to the present report.

68. The activities described above would require up to 70 officers, as well as a medical unit of up to 15 persons, with the necessary equipment and civilian administrative support staff.

69. In view of the volatile security situation outside the capital, the deployment would take place in phases, with the first group of approximately 40 military observers being deployed, starting during the month of July 1998, to Freetown, Hastings and Lungi. The timing of subsequent deployments would then depend on the security situation, the progress of implementation of the Government's disarmament and demobilization plan and the availability of the necessary logistical equipment and resources. In this connection, I would call on the Government of Sierra Leone to be prepared to make available to the mission such premises and services as they can. At this stage, I would provisionally anticipate that the second phase of deployment would then take place in August-September, with the final phase beginning in October.

70. The observers would be deployed at each of the three camps where former Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces are now being detained, i.e.,

Wilberforce Barracks, Benguema Training Centre and Lungi; at the three ECOMOG Brigade headquarters at Hastings, Makeni and Bo; and at a headquarters location to support the Chief Military Observer. During the next phases, subject to the considerations identified above, observers could be deployed outside the immediate area of Freetown, including to the home regions of CDF members returning to undertake voluntary disarmament and demobilization as and when they considered their home communities sufficiently secure.

71. The mission would be provided with adequate air support in order to ensure mobility and security, as well as casualty and medical evacuations. A boat would also be required to facilitate travel and communications between Lungi and Freetown.

72. Should the Security Council agree to these measures, I will establish security arrangements for United Nations personnel with the Chairman of ECOWAS and conclude a status of mission agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone.

73. The deployment described above would require a commensurate expansion in the size of the office of the Special Representative, including information and political officers, as well as the necessary administrative and support staff.

74. I would also propose to increase to four the number of human rights officers attached to the office of my Special Envoy. These officers, under the direction of the Special Representative, and in close cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, would have a monitoring role and the task of addressing the country's long-term human rights institution building needs.

75. An increase in the number of civilian police advisers from two to five would also be required. These officers would advise the Government and local police officials on police practice, training and recruitment, in particular on the need to respect internationally accepted standards of policing in democratic societies. They would also monitor the progress of the restructuring of the Sierra Leonean police force.

76. At this point, it is difficult to assess whether an expansion of the mission might be needed six months from now and, if so, what form it might take. My recommendations on this matter will depend on ECOMOG's progress in restoring security throughout the country. If the presence of United Nations personnel in areas of continuing insecurity is considered desirable in order to reduce bloodshed by encouraging armed elements to surrender, or if areas of Sierra Leone now secure come under threat from hostile elements, thought must be given to ensuring the security of United Nations personnel. Although ECOMOG is a capable force and has indicated it would guarantee the security of the observers, it is also a potential target of attacks by the remnants of the junta. Unarmed military observers under its protection might not be regarded as neutral by hostile armed elements and their safety might therefore be jeopardized.

77. For those reasons, I could envisage the possibility, at a future stage, of recommending the deployment of a highly mobile unit of armed United Nations troops, operating in close cooperation with ECOMOG but independent of it, to

protect observers in locations where their security might be at risk, but where their neutral presence may be helpful in encouraging armed elements to surrender. However, I do not believe that the time is ripe to make such a recommendation to the Council at this stage.

78. The deployment of ECOMOG troops at the border with Liberia could help lay to rest allegations of the influx of arms or the provision of armed assistance to the junta by foreign forces. I commend the Government of Liberia for its policy statement reaffirming that it will not permit its territory to be used to destabilize any neighbouring country. Verification that this was the case would, in my view, improve the security climate throughout the entire subregion and improve mutual confidence among its member countries. I hope there will be further discussions between the Heads of State of the subregion on these matters.

79. I therefore intend to pursue with President Taylor his proposal for the deployment of a small contingent of United Nations military observers at the border with Sierra Leone, in order to assist in verifying that Liberian territory is not being used to destabilize Sierra Leone and that foreign forces are not assisting the remnants of the former junta there. I will also discuss the matter with President Kabbah and with the Chairman of ECOWAS and revert to the Council in due course.

VII. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

80. Since my last report, the situation in Sierra Leone has in some respects improved considerably. Since its restoration on 10 March 1998, the Government has moved rapidly to reassert its authority throughout much of the country. President Kabbah has nominated a compact Cabinet of acknowledged experts in their fields, all of whom have been confirmed by Parliament, as well as a Chief Justice.

81. However, in the eastern part of Sierra Leone and parts of the north, the remnants of the former junta continue to resist ECOMOG forces and attack Sierra Leonean civilians. I join with the Council in deploring the continued resistance to the legitimate Government, in calling on the supporters of the junta to lay down their arms, and in condemning the mutilations, rapes, looting and other atrocities carried out by junta elements against the civilian population. I also align myself with the commendation expressed for ECOWAS and ECOMOG in the presidential statement adopted on 20 May 1998 (S/PRST/1998/13) for the important role they are playing to restore peace and security in Sierra Leone, and support the call for Member States to provide technical and logistical support to assist ECOMOG to continue to enhance its ability to carry out its peacekeeping role and contribute to bringing an end to the atrocities being committed against the people of Sierra Leone. In this context, I welcome the logistical assistance provided by the United States. I am also grateful for the contribution made by the United Kingdom, and invite other Member States to make contributions to the Trust Fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone.

82. It is clear that there are a significant number of victims of rebel atrocities who remain in the bush or who are otherwise unable to receive medical attention. I applaud the efforts of United Nations humanitarian personnel, ECOMOG and the non-governmental organizations in locating and aiding victims. However, more must be done as a matter of urgency, including the provision of additional medical and surgical capacity, including hospital beds. In the longer term, the agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned will need to offer support in the form of prosthesis services for all amputees and psycho-social treatment of traumatized victims and their families. In this context, I welcome the intention of ICRC to dispatch a surgical team to Sierra Leone to augment local medical facilities.

83. I call on the Government of Sierra Leone to continue to show the necessary resolve to adhere to international human rights standards and its own distinguished legal traditions in ensuring that those accused of the gravest crimes against the State and its people receive fair trials. I am aware that the Government has held to this course so far in the face of strongly voiced public contempt for the accused.

84. I express my appreciation to those Member States and others who have contributed to the flash appeal for humanitarian assistance and for various humanitarian projects.

85. I recommend that the Security Council establish an observer mission in Sierra Leone, to be known as the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), with the mandate and concept of operations described in paragraphs 66 to 71 above and with the necessary augmentation of civilian and civilian police staff as set out in paragraphs 73 to 75 above.

86. During the six-month period of the mandate, I would keep the situation closely under review and would make further recommendations to the Council concerning a possible extension or expansion of the mission as the circumstances permitted.

87. I support the recommendation of my Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict that Sierra Leone be made one of the pilot projects for a more concerted and effective response in the context of post-conflict peace-building.

88. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Envoy and to all United Nations staff in Sierra Leone for their efforts over the past several weeks.

Map No. 3902 Rev. 2 UNITED NATIONS
January 1997

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/948
S/1998/487
9 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 36, 37 and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 9 June 1998 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In follow-up to my letter to you dated yesterday, 8 June 1998 (A/52/947-S/1998/481), regarding the ongoing illegal Israeli actions in Jerusalem, I wish to inform you further that the Interior Ministry of Israel, the occupying Power, today approved the construction of 58 housing units for Jewish settlers in the area of the Mount of Olives in occupied East Jerusalem. The decision is yet another example of the pursuit, by the Government of Israel, of an intensified expansionist policy for the colonization and judaization of Arab Jerusalem, with the support of lunatic Jewish settler groups and the illegal municipality of Jerusalem.

Such actions demonstrate clearly the intransigence of the Israeli Government and its persistence in defying the will of the international community and in violating international law and United Nations resolutions. In this context, it is imperative for the international community to take measures in order to confront these Israeli policies and actions, to ensure respect for international law and to prevent further escalation of the situation in the whole region.

The Security Council, as the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, should formally consider the situation with a view to taking the necessary actions in this regard.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/488
10 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CYPRUS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 8 December 1997 to 8 June 1998 and brings up to date the record of the activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 1146 (1997) of 23 December 1997, in which the Council decided to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending on 30 June 1998. I will report to the Council separately on my mission of good offices.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Maintenance of the ceasefire and the military status quo

2. During the period under review, the situation along the ceasefire lines remained calm. Although both sides generally respected the ceasefire and the military status quo, there were frequent minor incidents. Both sides continued to dispute the delineation of their respective ceasefire lines in a number of areas within the United Nations buffer zone, often challenging the authority of UNFICYP. At times, this created friction between UNFICYP and the opposing forces as they moved forward into the buffer zone or overmanned their ceasefire lines in the disputed areas. As in the previous reporting period, both sides ignored UNFICYP protests of the more serious violations of the military status quo by continuing military construction along and in close proximity to the ceasefire lines.

3. There were a number of shooting incidents, which in most cases were heard, but not observed, by UNFICYP. Following investigations, both sides usually denied any knowledge of the incidents. On 13 March and 5 April 1998, each side accused the other of firing. At the request of the side claiming to have received the initial fire, investigations were carried out and rifle rounds recovered. Nevertheless, UNFICYP was unable to obtain sufficient evidence to determine who had fired owing, inter alia, to the unwillingness of both sides to

give timely access to the sector of the ceasefire line from which the shots were said to have originated or to answer questions. All shooting incidents were protested by UNFICYP.

4. Both sides continued major military construction works. These include anti-tank ditches and other defensive fortifications east and south-east of Nicosia, and a network of bunkers with connecting trenches to the west of the Old City of Nicosia. Such military construction tends to increase tension along the ceasefire lines. However, despite strong protests by UNFICYP, it continued.

5. There were a number of overflights as follows during the period under review. On 12 January 1998, a Turkish F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft overflew the buffer zone near Pyla. UNFICYP strongly protested this incident to Turkish forces headquarters. On 30 April, UNFICYP observed two Turkish Air Force RF-4 Phantoms conducting a live firing ground attack exercise onto a range area six kilometres north of Avlona. On several occasions, helicopters from both sides overflew parts of the buffer zone. In one incident, a Cyprus police helicopter landed at Athienou, despite denial by UNFICYP of a request for it to enter the buffer zone.

6. Both sides continued to upgrade their military capabilities. It is estimated that there are over 30,000 Turkish forces and some 4,500 Turkish Cypriot troops on the island. The Turkish forces continued to modernize their equipment by replacing M48A5T1 tanks with M48A5T2 tanks.

7. The National Guard's strength is approximately 14,500. During the period under review, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus reconfirmed its plan to deploy S-300 surface-to-air missiles unless there was progress in negotiations towards an overall settlement or towards the demilitarization of the island. This continued to be criticized by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot authorities. The military airbase in Paphos has been declared operational, although it has not yet come into use. The establishment of this airbase has also been strongly protested by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot authorities.

8. In spite of the Security Council's call in resolution 1146 (1997) for an early agreement to and rapid implementation of the UNFICYP package of measures to reduce tension along the ceasefire lines, no agreement has been reached on the matter. The military authorities in the north have reconfirmed their earlier acceptance of the UNFICYP package of measures in its entirety. The National Guard has accepted the code of conduct and the prohibition of loaded weapons, but has continued to reject UNFICYP proposals for the unmanning of positions in close proximity to each other on the grounds that it would leave the inhabitants of Nicosia unprotected. The National Guard has made counter-proposals, which, in the view of UNFICYP, would not contribute to the key objective of creating distance between the soldiers deployed on each side of the buffer zone. With regard to the Dherinia area, the National Guard's counter-proposal would entail the unmanning of the entire area between Dherinia and Varosha and would go well beyond the limited objective of creating distance between the opposing forces. UNFICYP will continue its efforts to gain acceptance by both sides of the UNFICYP package of measures presented in June 1997.

9. UNFICYP continued to carry out regular inspections of the facilities and park at Roccas Bastion in Nicosia. The situation has remained unchanged, and there was no indication that the area was being used for military purposes.

10. UNFICYP continued to monitor maintenance of the status quo in the fenced area of Varosha. There were numerous instances of property being removed from buildings by Turkish personnel, which UNFICYP protested to the Turkish forces.

11. UNFICYP freedom of movement in the northern part of the island continued to be restricted, and the Force remained subject to stricter limitations than those imposed on tourists and foreign diplomats. During the period under review, the National Guard restricted movement by UNFICYP humanitarian personnel at the Potamia checkpoint on several occasions.

12. There are 38 minefields and booby-trapped areas inside the buffer zone and a further 73 located within 500 metres of it. UNFICYP has again requested both sides for precise information before presenting proposals for the removal of the minefields located within the buffer zone. The National Guard has stated its readiness to hand over minefield records provided that the other side does the same. The military authorities in the north indicated that they would be ready to negotiate the minefield issue with UNFICYP immediately following agreement on the UNFICYP package of measures to reduce tension along the ceasefire lines. UNFICYP will continue to seek information about minefields from both sides. The danger inherent in the present situation was highlighted on 12 January 1998, when an excavator being operated by two United Nations personnel working on the Lefka road in the buffer zone detonated an anti-tank mine. Fortunately, both escaped without injuries, but the road has been closed to all UNFICYP traffic for safety reasons.

13. Greek Cypriot hunters frequently entered the buffer zone during the hunting season. On 14 December 1997, southwest of Lefka, a shotgun was negligently discharged in the direction of a member of UNFICYP civilian police, and on 28 December 1997, in the area of Dhenia, several shots were fired over the heads of an UNFICYP patrol. These incidents were protested to the appropriate authorities.

B. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

14. On 26 December 1997, the Turkish Cypriot authorities announced that they were re-evaluating bi-communal contacts in the context of the situation that had arisen as a result of the summit meeting of the European Union in Luxembourg, and that, as of 27 December, all bi-communal activities would be suspended. Despite repeated requests, the Turkish Cypriot authorities have continued to prevent Turkish Cypriot participation in bi-communal meetings on the island.

15. The Turkish Cypriot side repeatedly complained that an all-encompassing embargo was continuing against Northern Cyprus, which has been imposed by the Greek Cypriot authorities since 1963. This embargo covers all spheres of life, including international relations, travel, trade, tourism and the economy in general, as well as sports and cultural and social activities. The Turkish Cypriot authorities protested that this leads to the isolation of the Turkish

Cypriot community from the rest of the world and creates distrust and a crisis of confidence between the two sides on the island. They claim that while this embargo continues, the superficial attempt to bring together members of the two sides serves no useful purpose, and that the creation of trust and confidence depends on the removal of these measures.

16. A number of Greek Cypriot and Greek civilians were apprehended in the northern part of Cyprus after crossing the buffer zone and were detained by the Turkish Cypriot authorities. In each case, UNFICYP humanitarian and medical personnel visited the detainees and arranged for family visits in the place of their detention. All of them were subsequently released. In some instances, efforts are continuing for the release of their belongings held in the northern part of Cyprus. Four Turkish Cypriots and four Turkish citizens are being held in the custody of the Cypriot police. Two of them, who were arrested on 23 October 1997 south of the National Guard ceasefire line near Louroujina, were eventually charged with livestock and arms smuggling. After frequent adjournments, their trial ended on 11 April. On 25 May, 7 months after their arrest, they were sentenced to one year in prison. UNFICYP maintains that whenever civilians cross the other side's ceasefire line in a non-belligerent manner, they and their belongings should be returned without delay.

17. On 21 December 1997, UNFICYP arranged for 193 Greek Cypriots to visit the Apostolos Andreas Monastery on the Karpas Peninsula. On 31 January 1998, 1,285 Turkish Cypriots visited the Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque in Larnaca, and 1,314 visited it on 9 April 1998. On 7 and 14 March 1998, 94 Turkish Cypriot students were permitted access to the Kokkina enclave by land to mark anniversaries there. The Greek Cypriot pilgrimage to Apostolos Andreas Monastery scheduled for 19 April 1998 was cancelled owing to the imposition of the new charges mentioned in paragraph 21 below.

18. An expanded and automated telephone connection between the northern and southern parts of Cyprus was inaugurated on 4 May at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Since 1974, the United Nations had provided the only telephone connection between the northern and southern part of Cyprus. The existing operator-assisted telephone connections had, for some time, been insufficient for the growing demand from both sides, which had resulted in delays and inconvenience to users. The upgraded service will significantly increase the handling capacity, thus eliminating the delays that users had frequently experienced.

19. Demonstrations by Greek Cypriots at the South Ledra checkpoint continued, mainly on weekends, with the aim of dissuading tourists from crossing to the north. In some instances, organized groups of schoolchildren in uniform participated in demonstrations.

20. UNFICYP continued to carry out humanitarian tasks in respect of Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the northern part of the island and Turkish Cypriots in the southern part. There are now 460 Greek Cypriots in the Karpas area, two in Kyrenia and 173 Maronites in the Kormakiti area. Some 340 Turkish Cypriots in the southern part of the island have made themselves known to UNFICYP. The living conditions of Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in the north have gradually improved over the past three years. Since the humanitarian review conducted by UNFICYP in 1995 (see S/1995/1020, paras. 20-25 and annexes), a

number of incremental improvements have occurred that have been reported to the Council in previous reports. During the current reporting period, the Turkish Cypriot authorities lifted most age restrictions for Greek Cypriot and Maronite children visiting their families in the north, although the age limit of 16 remains in force for Greek Cypriot boys. Two new telephone lines were installed in Leonarisso recently.

21. However, in mid-February, the Turkish Cypriot side imposed new regulations and fees for entry to and exit from the north. Greek Cypriots and Maronites from the southern part of Cyprus visiting relatives residing in the northern part must pay a fee of 15 pounds sterling per adult per visit. All residents in the northern part, Greek Cypriots, Maronites, nationals of other countries and Turkish Cypriots, travelling to the southern part have to pay a £4 transit charge, or £10 per month for multiple visits. These new charges have significantly reduced the number of Greek Cypriots and Maronites visiting their relatives in the northern part of Cyprus. Effective 17 April 1998 , these regulations were adjusted with respect to Maronites, who were granted a reduction of the charges to £4 per visit per adult or £30 per year for multiple visits for the entire family. The charges for Greek Cypriots remain unchanged.

22. Although the standard of living of Greek Cypriots on the Karpas Peninsula does not differ significantly from that of Turkish Cypriots living in the same area, the major restriction remains that Greek Cypriots and Maronites cannot bequeath their property, even to their next of kin, unless their heirs also live in the northern part of the island. Otherwise, immovable property is expropriated by the Turkish Cypriot authorities when the owner dies.

23. In accordance with the agreement reached by the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on 31 July 1997 (see S/1997/962, para. 21), on 23 January 1998, in the presence of my Deputy Special Representative, the two sides met to exchange information concerning the location of graves of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons. They also agreed to meet again to discuss the preparation of arrangements leading to the return of the remains of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons. In a further meeting on 30 April, however, the Turkish Cypriot representative stated that he was not prepared to discuss the necessary arrangements leading to the exhumation and return of the remains of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons until the Greek Cypriot side, as proof of its sincerity, agreed to first look into the fate of the Greek Cypriot victims of the coup d'état against Archbishop Makarios in 1974. The Turkish Cypriot side claims that victims of the coup d'état are among those persons listed as missing. This position deviates from the 31 July 1997 agreement, which calls on the two sides to work out arrangements for the exhumation and identification of the remains located in the graves on which information was exchanged on 23 January 1998. As a result of the position taken by the Turkish Cypriot side, no progress has been made towards the implementation of the 31 July 1997 agreement. The Greek Cypriot side has since decided to begin exhumation and identification of the remains located in graves in the area under its control.

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III. COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS

24. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee on Missing Persons, upon the recommendation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and following consultations with both sides, I am appointing Mr. Jean-Pierre Ritter as the new third member of the Committee on Missing Persons for an 18-month period. I urge both sides to accord him their full cooperation with a view to discharging the Committee's responsibilities expeditiously.

IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

25. UNFICYP continued to act as the intermediary between the two communities to facilitate cooperation in such areas as the equitable distribution of water and electricity. Owing to poor rainfall and saline contamination, water supplies on the island continue to diminish. Wherever possible, UNFICYP encourages civilian use of the buffer zone for peaceful purposes, such as industrial or agricultural work or maintenance of public utilities and communications.

26. In March 1998, the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development reached an agreement for the United Nations Office for Project Services to take over functions carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees until December 1997. Focusing on reconstruction and development, this programme will continue to give priority to bi-communal activities in public health, environment, sanitation, water, urban renovation, restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, education and natural resources. It will also provide financial and technical support to selected civil society organizations and non-government organizations.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

27. As of 30 April 1998, UNFICYP comprised 1,226 troops and 34 civilian police. The military personnel are from Argentina (410), Austria (259), Canada (3), Finland (1), Hungary (107), Ireland (29), Slovenia (10), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (407). On 24 May 1998, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland began deployment of a company of 97 Netherlands personnel integrated within the British contingent of UNFICYP without increasing the overall strength of the unit. The civilian police are provided by Australia (20) and Ireland (14). In addition, UNFICYP currently has a civilian component of 44 international staff and 288 local staff. The number of local staff will be reduced to 221 by 1 July 1998.

28. Mr. Diego Cordovez remained my Special Adviser on Cyprus. Mr. Gustave Feissel continued as my Deputy Special Representative and Chief of Mission of the United Nations operation in Cyprus. He will relinquish his post on 30 June 1998, and the Security Council has agreed to the appointment of Ms. Ann Hercus to succeed him (see S/1998/388 and S/1998/389). Major-General Evergisto A. de Vergara continued as Force Commander.

VI. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

29. The proposed budget for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. The cost of maintaining the Force for the 12-month period is estimated at $43,000,900 gross (A/52/775/Add.1). That amount is inclusive of the pledged voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force from the Government of Cyprus and of the $6.5 million contributed annually by the Government of Greece. Therefore, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP beyond 30 June 1998, the annual cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount indicated above.

30. As of 30 April 1998, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the UNFICYP Special Account amounted to $15.6 million, representing some 13.5 per cent of the assessment for the Mission since 16 June 1993. The outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $1.5 billion.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

31. During the last six months, the situation along the ceasefire lines in Cyprus was relatively calm, despite continued tension. This found expression in frequent minor violations. Both sides continued to respect the ceasefire arrangement of 1974. Nevertheless, both sides continued to challenge the delineation of the ceasefire lines in certain areas and UNFICYP authority in the buffer zone.

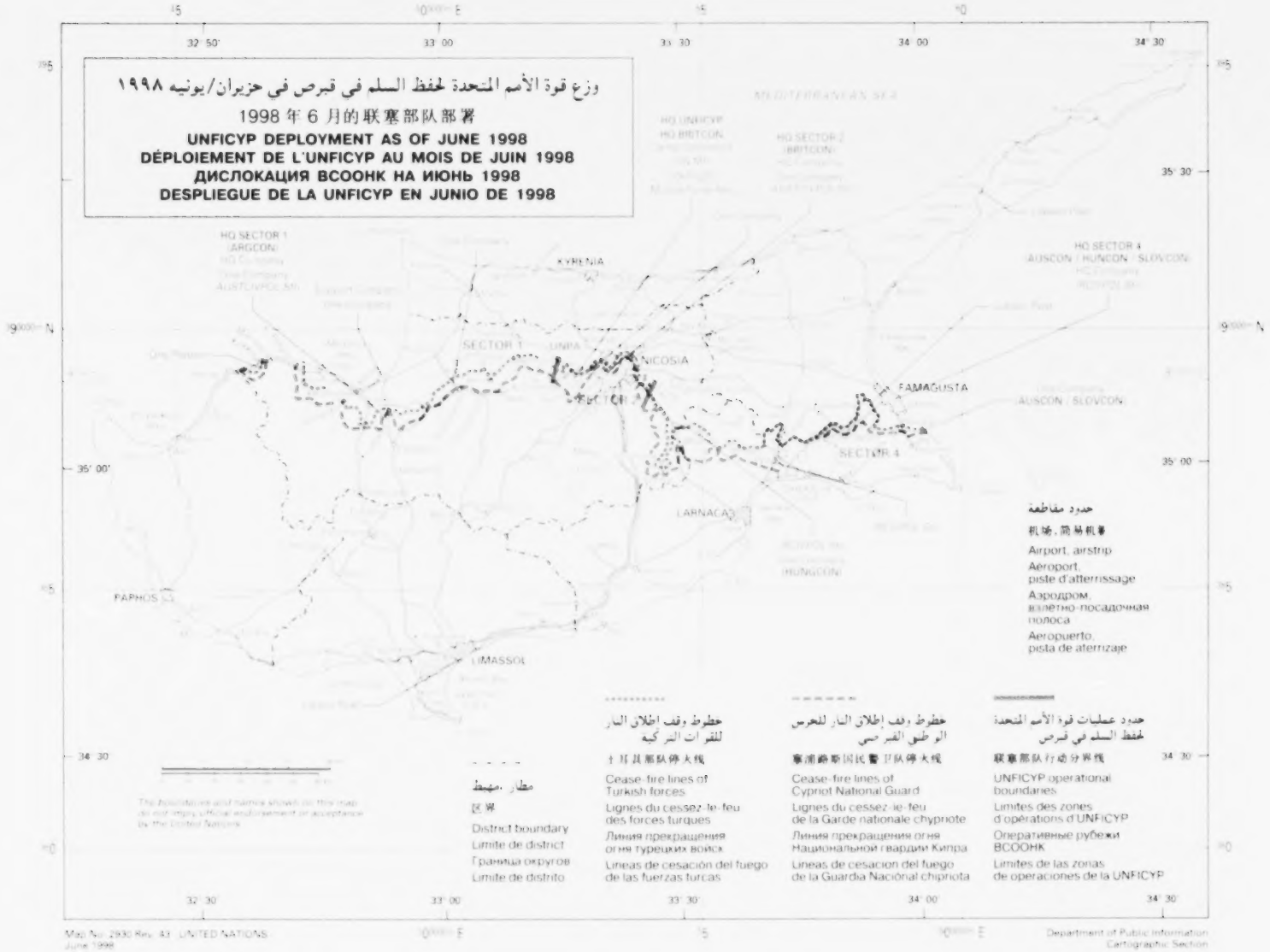
32. The repeated appeals of the Security Council for a reduction in defence spending and a reduction in the number of foreign military troops have not been heeded by either side. The military forces and armaments in Cyprus continued to be expanded, upgraded and modernized on both sides. There has also been no progress concerning the package of reciprocal measures proposed by UNFICYP to reduce tension along the ceasefire lines, notwithstanding the Security Council's calls for early agreement to and rapid implementation of these measures. UNFICYP will continue its efforts towards that end.

33. It is regrettable that Turkish Cypriots were not allowed to participate in bi-communal activities sponsored by UNFICYP and others. There is evident value in direct contacts between the members of the two communities, especially in times when tensions are relatively high. I urge both sides, and in particular the Turkish Cypriot side, to facilitate arrangements within which bi-communal contacts can take place uninterrupted and without formalities.

34. The presence of UNFICYP on the island remains indispensable to maintain the ceasefire between the two sides, which is a prerequisite for achieving the settlement of the Cyprus question sought by the international community. Therefore, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months until 31 December 1998. I am consulting the parties concerned on the matter and shall report to the Council as soon as these consultations have been completed.

35. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops and civilian police to UNFICYP for the steadfast support they have given to this peacekeeping operation of the United Nations. I also wish to thank the Governments that have made voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Force.

36. In conclusion, I wish to express my warm appreciation to my Deputy Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, upon his retirement at the end of June after a long and distinguished career in the service of the United Nations. I also wish to pay tribute to Major-General Evergisto A. de Vergara, the Force Commander, and to the men and women serving with UNFICYP for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.


وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لحفظ السلم في قبرص في حزيران/يونيه ١٩٩٨
1998 年 6 月的联塞部队部署
UNFICYP DEPLOYMENT AS OF JUNE 1998
DÉPLOIEMENT DE L'UNFICYP AU MOIS DE JUIN 1998
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНК НА ИЮНЬ 1998
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNFICYP EN JUNIO DE 1998
HQ SECTOR 1
ARGCON
KYRENIA
SECTOR 1
UNPA
NICOSIA
FAMAGUSTA
AUSCON / SLOVCON
SECTOR 4
LARNACA
PAPHOS
LIMASSOL
HUNGCON
حدود مقاطعة
机场، 简易机场
Airport, airstrip
Aeroport, piste d'atterrissage
Аэродром, взлетно-посадочная полоса
Aeropuerto, pista de aterrizaje
خطوط وقف إطلاق النار للقوات التركية
土耳其部队停火线
Cease-fire lines of Turkish forces
Lignes du cessez-le-feu des forces turques
Линия прекращения огня турецких войск
Líneas de cesación del fuego de las fuerzas turcas
خطوط وقف إطلاق النار للحرس الوطني القبرصي
塞浦路斯国民警卫队停火线
Cease-fire lines of Cypriot National Guard
Lignes du cessez-le-feu de la Garde nationale chypriote
Линия прекращения огня Национальной гвардии Кипра
Líneas de cesacion del fuego de la Guardia Nacional chipriota
حدود عمليات قوة الأمم المتحدة لحفظ السلم في قبرص
联塞部队行动分界线
UNFICYP operational boundaries
Limites des zones d'opérations d'UNFICYP
Оперативные рубежи ВСООНК
Límites de las zonas de operaciones de la UNFICYP
مطار، مهبط
区界
District boundary
Limite de district
Граница округов
Límite de distrito
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 2930 Rev. 43 UNITED NATIONS June 1998
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S/1998/489
10 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made in Parliament on 8 June 1998 by the Prime Minister of India.

I would request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamalesh SHARMA

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Annex

Statement by the Prime Minister of India to the Parliament on 8 June 1998 on Security Council resolution 1172 (1998) of 6 June 1998

The Honourable Members are aware of the resolution adopted on 6 June 1998 by the United Nations Security Council. I would like to take the House into confidence on our position on this matter.

We regret that the Security Council has acted in the manner in which it has and produced a resolution which is completely unhelpful in respect of the objectives it seeks to address. The resolution contains a number of references to nuclear non-proliferation. As I had mentioned in my earlier statement to the House, we are a responsible and committed member of the international community. The resolution urges us not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosions. For India, such an urging is redundant because we have already instituted a voluntary moratorium. We have also indicated our willingness to explore ways and means of converting this undertaking into a de jure obligation. Further, we have made clear our readiness to engage in multilateral negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We cannot, however, be expected to commit ourselves in advance of these negotiations to unilaterally restraining production of fissile materials. In keeping with our commitment to non-proliferation, we maintain the strictest controls over exports of nuclear materials and technologies. Our record in this regard has been impeccable, and better than that of some countries that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group or even permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

However, the call made in the resolution that we should stop our nuclear programmes or missile programmes is unacceptable. Decisions in this regard will be taken by the Government on the basis of our own assessments and national security requirements, in a reasonable and responsible manner. This right, which we claim for ourselves, is not something new; it is the right of every sovereign country and a right that every Government in this country has strongly upheld for the last 50 years.

A glaring lacuna in the resolution is the total absence of a recognition that the non-proliferation issue is not a regional issue but has to be dealt with in a non-discriminatory global context. We find it unfortunate that the Security Council resolution does not reflect on the judgement of the highest international judicial body - the International Court of Justice - which has questioned the legitimacy of nuclear weapons and called for urgent negotiations for their elimination. In the paper on the evolution of India's nuclear policy laid on the table of this House, we have reiterated our commitment to nuclear disarmament. Let me categorically state that unlike other nuclear weapon States that have sought to retain an exclusive hold over their nuclear arsenals, India has no such ambition. The Government is committed to initiatives that can open negotiations for a global convention for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. The attempt to portray the recent tests by India as a threat to peace and

security is totally misguided and grossly out of focus. Such a portrayal of our policy ignores the positive steps announced by the Government to which I have already referred, both in the global disarmament framework and in the regional context. Our tests were necessary because of the failure of a flawed non-proliferation regime, and, therefore, we categorically reject the notion that these have adversely affected either regional or global security.

The Government has indicated its willingness to engage in a meaningful dialogue with key interlocutors on the whole range of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Last week, Special Envoy Shri Brajesh Mishra visited Paris and London in this regard. He had meetings at the most senior levels in the two capitals. Dialogues with other countries are also planned. These dialogues have to be seen as part of a process, a process that will lead to a better understanding of India's position.

The Honourable Members are aware that India has always desired a peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with Pakistan based on confidence and respect for each other's concerns. I have already said on the floor of both houses, and I would like to reiterate, that a secure and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest. Our vision of our bilateral relationship is not confined to a resolution of outstanding issues, but is also directed to the future by seeking to build a stable structure of cooperation, which will benefit the people of both countries. As I wrote recently to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, we must not remain mired in the past, prisoners of old contentions. And I say to him today, let us put the past behind us, let us think of the welfare of our children and grandchildren.

We have remained committed to a path of direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. This reflects the nation's conviction and confidence that it is only through direct discussions carried out in a sustained and constructive manner that we can move ahead in our bilateral relationship. I would again like to reiterate our desire for the earliest resumption of the official talks with Pakistan. The subjects for discussion, including peace and security (along with confidence-building measures), Jammu and Kashmir, economic and commercial cooperation and cross-border terrorism, have been identified. Our proposals for the modalities of these talks have been with Pakistan since January of this year. We await its response. We have also made it clear once again that there is no place for outside involvement of any nature whatsoever in our dialogue with Pakistan.

The Honourable Members have expressed strong reservations against attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue. There is simply no question of India ever agreeing to such internationalization. The United Nations Security Council has chosen to mention Kashmir in its resolution. This is unacceptable and does not change the reality that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. I would also like to draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the terms in which Kashmir finds mention in the resolution. The Security Council has recognized that bilateral dialogue has to be the basis of India-Pakistan relations and mutually acceptable solutions have to be found for outstanding issues, including Kashmir. This is in keeping with our position.

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10 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a summary of a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia concerning a second air strike, on 5 June 1998, by the Asmara authorities against civilian targets including schools, in the city of Makelle, capital of the Tigray regional state of Ethiopia. I also have the honour to attach a press statement by Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and head of the delegation of Ethiopia to the sixty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, held in Ouagadougou.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annexes as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Press release issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia on 6 June 1998

On 5 June 1998, at about 5 p.m., the Eritrean authorities carried out a second air raid against the Ethiopian city of Makelle, striking civilian areas twice, including an elementary school. The casualties of this barbaric action were 44 killed and 135 wounded, among them children. This premeditated air strike was clearly aimed at unleashing terror among the civilian population since bombs were dropped twice, the first on the school and the second on a crowd assisting victims.

The Eritrean authorities provoked those hostilities when they occupied Ethiopian territory and rejected a recommendation proposed by the facilitators, who have attempted to defuse the tensions triggered by Eritrean aggression. One of the key elements of the proposal by the United States of America and Rwanda, supported by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Ouagadougou, calls for the withdrawal of Eritrean invading forces from Ethiopian territory, the demilitarization of the entire common border between the two countries and peaceful negotiations on rival territorial claims. Ethiopia has accepted the recommendation in full, while the Eritrean authorities talk about demilitarization in vague language and have opted for aggression, which drags Ethiopia into a situation of hostilities with consequences that are certain to be more disastrous for them.

When this uncivilized act was initiated by the authorities in Asmara, Ethiopia ordered the Eritrean Embassy in Addis Ababa to limit the number of its diplomatic staff to three and to make sure that the rest left Ethiopia by Sunday, 7 June 1998, at noon. The order was served on 5 June 1998, giving the Eritreans 48 hours to comply.

Annex II

Press statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Head of the Ethiopian delegation to the sixty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity issued on 6 June 1998

Ethiopia views with pride and admiration the role of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, its endeavour to free Africa from the scourge of conflicts and its tireless effort to bring about peace and stability on the continent.

It is to be recalled that the Central Organ and the Council of Ministers convened special sessions on 4 and 5 June 1998 consecutively to discuss the conflict that has erupted between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The concern demonstrated and the efforts made to come up with a viable recommendation during those two sessions have clearly demonstrated Africa's high sense of responsibility and its determination to resolve all conflicts on our continent by peaceful means. At the same time, we view with deep regret the anguish and pain that this has created for the member States of OAU. The fact is that this is a conflict imposed on Ethiopia as a result of Eritrea's naked aggression on our territory.

At its special session the Council, after a lengthy discussion on the matter, adopted a constructive resolution and launched an appeal that calls upon both parties simultaneously to put an end to all hostilities and to accept and implement the recommendations of the facilitators. The Ethiopian delegation to the special session has accepted this noble call with appreciation and full commitment. At the same time, on 4 June 1998, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia announced that it had fully endorsed and accepted the package of recommendations made by the facilitators. Those recommendations, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia believes, go far beyond a ceasefire and serve as a basis to bring about a lasting solution to the border dispute.

The Eritrean Government, however, has continued its provocations and has rejected the package of recommendations. Furthermore, it has opted to escalate the conflict to a full-scale war, the consequences of which it has to bear full responsibility.

Presently, the ball is clearly and squarely in the court of the Eritrean Government. If it is committed to peace it is imperative that the Eritrean Government accept the package of recommendations of the facilitators and unequivocally heed the appeal launched by the Council of Ministers of OAU.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, therefore, urges the member States of OAU and the international community at large to prevail upon the Government of Eritrea to end its intransigent position and demonstrate its readiness to resolve the conflict through peaceful means by immediately and unconditionally accepting the recommendations of the facilitators.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1144 (1997) of 19 December 1997. It summarizes the activities of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) since my report of 12 March 1997 (S/1998/227 and Corr.1) and provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the same period. It also includes the recommendations requested in resolution 1168 (1998) of 21 May 1998.

2. UNMIBH continues to be led by my Special Representative and Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Elisabeth Rehn (Finland). She is assisted in these tasks by Mr. Richard Monk (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), who serves as Commissioner of the International Police Task Force (IPTF). The authorized strength of IPTF has been increased to 2,057 in accordance with Security Council resolution 1168 (1998) relating to specialized training for local police in Bosnia and Herzegovina on key public security issues.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION

3. During the period under review, in addition to its ongoing activities of monitoring, advising and training the local police, UNMIBH has carried out a number of initiatives, the three most important of which have been to commence the restructuring of the police services in the two still-outstanding cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Federation) and in the Republika Srpska; to introduce a common license plate in order to enhance freedom of movement within and between the Federation and the Republika Srpska; and to undertake preparations for a specialized training programme for the local police, as well as for a monitoring and assessment programme of the judicial system of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as requested in resolution 1144 (1997).

Police restructuring and training

4. The progress of UNMIBH in restructuring the police services of the Federation and the Republika Srpska is closely linked to the overall process of peace implementation. To varying degrees, the three parties have always been reluctant to transform the mono-ethnic institutions of the war period into multi-ethnic organizations suitable for building a new nation. Now, given the increasing - although still small - returns of refugees and displaced persons from minority groups, the resistance of the political authorities to the integration of police officers from minorities into their majority-controlled police forces has become more manifest. Integration is seen by the authorities as a tool for advancing minority returns, which, in their view, might lead to a weakening of the present majorities' position in the areas under their control.

5. As a result, UNMIBH has encountered serious obstacles in the Federation that have prevented the inauguration of restructured police forces in the Croat-controlled cantons 8 and 10, mainly owing to disagreements between Croat authorities and UNMIBH over issues pertaining to uniform insignias and minority representation. UNMIBH is also faced with significant implementation problems in the other eight cantonal police services in the Federation where inaugurations have already taken place.

6. After Croats rioted in the Drvar municipality in canton 10 (see para. 24), UNMIBH signed an agreement with the canton 10 authorities for the inauguration of that canton's police service. The agreement, however, could not be implemented because of persistent differences between UNMIBH and the Croat authorities over minority representation in the cantonal police service and over security for returning Serbs, including Serb police officers.

7. At the Federation level, the inauguration of the Ministry of Interior continues to be delayed. UNMIBH has been unable to resolve differences between the Croats and Bosniacs over the distribution of posts by ethnicity and over the division of responsibilities between the Minister and his Deputy. Furthermore, the failure of the Federation Government to pass the Law of Internal Affairs has placed legal obstacles in the way of reconciling the two parties.

8. While UNMIBH continues to pursue the establishment of integrated cantonal police services in the remaining two cantons and to certify and provide preliminary training to police officers, IPTF has also begun to address the operational difficulties that have arisen in the inaugurated police services of the other eight cantons. To do so, IPTF has formed "contract assurance teams", whose task is to assess each cantonal police force's level of compliance with the standards set by the 25 April 1996 Bonn-Petersberg Agreement. Based on an auditing procedure, the contract assurance teams have begun meeting with local and international officials in those eight cantons. The teams focus on the ethnic composition of the cantonal police services, the degree of cooperation between and among police officers of different ethnic groups, the quality of that cooperation, the operation of the cantonal police chains of command and the free flow of information between commanders of different ethnic groups, the degree to which the orders emanating from the chain of command are obeyed by officers of the different ethnic groups, freedom of movement within the canton and the quality and thoroughness of investigations carried out by the cantonal criminal police sections. These assessments will enable UNMIBH to evaluate the

degree to which the cantonal police services are operating appropriately, to address problems that have arisen and to introduce the necessary changes to oblige police throughout the Federation to adhere to democratic standards of policing. A particular problem that remains is the very low level of Serb representation in the Federation police.

9. In the Republika Srpska, the apparent willingness of the new authorities to work with UNMIBH in implementing the provisions of Annex 11 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace is counterbalanced by the Government's internal divisions and the fear of a resurgent nationalist reaction in the run-up to the September 1998 elections. Progress in the restructuring has therefore been limited.

10. The process of restructuring the local police in the Republika Srpska officially commenced with the signing of the 17 September 1997 agreement between UNMIBH and the Republika Srpska authorities. Since then, UNMIBH has begun downsizing the Republika Srpska police service and certifying and training police officers. UNMIBH, however, has been unable to secure the integration of minority police officers into the police force, mainly because of the unsettled political environment in the Republika Srpska.

11. Notwithstanding the above, UNMIBH has now formulated a comprehensive strategy to reinvigorate the restructuring of the Republika Srpska police, which includes a detailed plan for the phased integration of minority police officers. Prime Minister Dodik and Interior Minister Stankovic have agreed, in principle, to create a multi-ethnic Republika Srpska police force with initial deployment in the zone of separation and in areas where minority returns have already begun or are imminent, in particular in the four "open cities" (Mrkonjic Grad, Sipovo, Laktasi and Srbac) that have already signed agreements with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that they welcome minority returns. Secondly, in accordance with an agreement with the multi-national Stabilization Force (SFOR), former members of the now-disbanded Republika Srpska Anti-Terrorist Brigade who have been certified by IPTF are being retrained in Banja Luka for their future incorporation into the Republika Srpska Special Police Service. IPTF has assisted the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior in developing this new branch of the Republika Srpska police, which will perform tasks not performed by the regular police service, such as ordinance removal, VIP protection and hostage rescue.

12. In addition to restructuring the police services of both entities, IPTF has also continued to assist them by coordinating their efforts to become better equipped and trained. With respect to equipment, UNMIBH has expedited and facilitated the distribution of reflective traffic vests, handcuffs, flashlights, hand-held stop signs, traffic cones, reflective armbands and police vehicles to the respective police services.

13. IPTF has also maintained its training programmes to help instill the necessary principles of democratic policing into the restructured police services. A total of 10,095 Federation police officers (88 per cent of the total) have completed the week-long human dignity class. In addition, 4,596 Federation police officers (40 per cent of the total) have completed the transitional training course, which is a condensed version of a police academy course and focuses on basic police skills. In the Republika Srpska, a total of

3,721 police officers (44 per cent of the total) have completed the Human Dignity Course and 187 police officers (2.2 per cent of the total) have completed the Transitional Training course. Efforts continue to assist the local police in developing modern police academies. The first class of 100 officers, which included 32 women and had a majority of Croat cadets, graduated from the Federation Police Academy on 31 March.

Freedom of movement

14. The second major substantive operational area with which UNMIBH has been occupied during the reporting period has been freedom of movement. IPTF has continued to implement and enforce its checkpoint policy as described in earlier reports (see S/1997/468, para. 5). On average, IPTF approves approximately 10 checkpoints per day, largely in high-crime areas and during special occasions, such as sporting events and political rallies.

15. A more fundamental change towards increased freedom of movement for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been the introduction of a common license plate (see S/1998/227, para. 14). During the reporting period, one of the principal activities of Civil Affairs, working in close cooperation with the Office of the High Representative, has been organizing the production and monitoring the distribution of the new plates and registration documents. By 13 May, all cantonal interior ministries in the Federation and the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior had collected license plates and the requisite documents for distribution to the public. Without question, this initiative has been a success, as evidenced by the number of vehicles on the road with the new common license plate and the number of additional vehicles to which the new plate is affixed each day.

16. During the week of 18 May, IPTF and Civil Affairs confirmed that motorists throughout the Republika Srpska and in Bosniac-controlled areas of the Federation were receiving the new license plates and registration documents without difficulty. Unfortunately, officials in the Croat-controlled cantons and municipalities have not been as cooperative. Obstruction by Croat officials has included not issuing license plates at all and issuing illegal registration documents. In cooperation with the Office of the High Representative, UNMIBH has made strong representations to the Croat authorities on these cases of non-compliance.

17. The UNMIBH Human Rights Office has also contributed to enhancing freedom of movement throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina by closely monitoring criminal proceedings against five Republika Srpska residents who were arrested by Federation police in February and March. Three of the individuals had been detained on war crime charges, while the other two were arrested on common criminal charges for incidents that had occurred before the war. Republika Srpska authorities claimed that Federation officials had ordered the arrests in order to hinder Serb freedom of movement and prevent Serb returns to Sarajevo. In coordination with the Office of the High Representative and with the support of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, UNMIBH determined that the Federation police had the right to detain those arrested. Of the three alleged war criminals detained, one was released because of lack of evidence and one was tried and received a non-custodial sentence. One of the two men

arrested for common crime killings was convicted of manslaughter and freed on bail pending appeal. The other individuals remain in detention.

Weapons inspections

18. As part of its regular operations, IPTF assisted SFOR's Operation Harvest programme, which provided amnesty for individuals turning in weapons, mines and ordnance to designated SFOR and IPTF sites in the period between 2 March and 15 May 1998. In cooperation with local police, IPTF and SFOR collected 6,799 mines, 5,873 combined artillery rounds, 2,412 small arms, 610,129 rounds of ammunition and 23,369 pieces of unexploded ordnance.

19. Following a review of its weapons inspections policy, IPTF has changed the frequency with which it visits local police stations. Inspecting police stations quarterly rather than monthly, IPTF thus conducted 90 weapons searches throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1 March and 20 May. Only four inspections in the Republika Srpska and four in the Federation resulted in the confiscation of illegal weapons. In total, IPTF collected 4,400 rounds of ammunition and 68 illegal weapons during these operations.

Incidents

20. In cooperation with the Office of the High Representative and SFOR, IPTF has continued to sanction local police officials who display gross non compliance with agreements made by their political authorities on police restructuring, especially in areas designated for the return of minority refugees and displaced persons.

21. In the Croat-controlled municipality of Prozor, in canton 7, strong IPTF and Civil Affairs intervention with the cantonal Interior Minister resulted in the removal of the uncertified police chief, who had, over the past several months, refused to take steps to become certified, had not cooperated with IPTF efforts to implement joint Croat-Bosniac policing and did not investigate organized crime.

22. Between the beginning of the year and 20 May, there were 46 cases of attacks (arson and physical assault) against returning Bosniacs and Serbs in the Croat-controlled municipality of Stolac, in canton 7. As no progress was being made in the investigations of these crimes, IPTF wrote a de-certification letter against the Stolac police chief, who was subsequently removed by the cantonal Interior Minister. Thereafter, UNMIBH demanded, and municipal authorities acquiesced, to the co-location of a senior IPTF monitor in the office of the Stolac chief of police in order to monitor closely the daily operations of that municipality's local police.

23. In Drvar, another Croat-controlled municipality in canton 10, the police chief had failed over a period of several months to investigate properly dozens of attacks (arson, harassment, assault) perpetuated since the beginning of the year against Serbs returning to their homes. After the murder of two Serb adults and the failure of both the municipal and cantonal authorities to respond vigorously to the incident, my Special Representative, the IPTF Commissioner and the High Representative wrote to the cantonal authorities on 17 April to de-certify the Chief of Police and remove the Deputy Mayor of Drvar, and to call

for the resignation of the cantonal Minister of Interior. In addition, IPTF deployed special investigative teams to Drvar to assist local police to conduct a comprehensive analysis of all recent incidents in the municipality.

24. Subsequently, on 24 April, a crowd of several hundred Croats attacked the municipal offices and the IPTF station in Drvar. The Serb Mayor (elected in the September 1997 municipal elections) was injured and evacuated by IPTF personnel, first to the IPTF station, and later by SFOR for treatment to Banja Luka. When the mob set fire to the IPTF premises, the IPTF personnel were evacuated to a nearby SFOR base. Later, an apartment complex housing Serb returnees was targeted and fires were set which left about 160 Serbs homeless.

25. Another case in which UNMIBH demanded the removal of a chief of police, followed an investigation by the UNMIBH Human Rights Office into allegations of torture and ill-treatment by Teslic police. Following repeated interventions with the Republika Srpska authorities by UNMIBH, the Teslic chief of police was replaced. In addition, a special investigation team was sent from the Republika Srpska Ministry of Internal Affairs to look into the cases raised by the Human Rights Office.

Cooperation with other international organizations

26. UNMIBH continues to cooperate closely with other international organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). During the reporting period, IPTF assisted in developing security plans with the local police for sessions of the municipal assemblies, and it is currently working with OSCE in preparation for the national elections scheduled for 13 September 1998. As part of the international community's response to the inability of the local political parties to reach an agreement on the establishment of a municipal government in Srebrenica after the September 1997 elections, Civil Affairs opened an office in that municipality. Along with IPTF, Civil Affairs officers also participated in the OSCE-managed post-election municipal certification process. UNMIBH Public Information officers have been full members of the OSCE Media Experts Commission since April.

Investigation of human rights violations by local law enforcement personnel

27. In addition to the investigation into human rights violations in Teslic (see para. 25), the UNMIBH Human Rights Office had taken up over 900 cases of alleged human rights violations as of 31 May. Many such cases relate to direct abuses by the police, while others involve local police negligence in responding to crimes against minorities. Still other cases pertain to property disputes involving abuses by housing authorities against minorities.

28. One particular case taken up by the Human Rights Office was the arrest in February of Goran Vasic, a Bosnian Serb accused of killing Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic in January 1993 while the latter was under UNPROFOR protection (see S/1998/227, para. 22). On 3 April, UNMIBH published a report on its investigation, and four canton 9 police officers from Sarajevo received letters of non-compliance for violations of Mr. Vasic's human rights. Since then, canton 9 has implemented a series of recommendations that were included in the UNMIBH report.

29. Criminal proceedings were initiated in April against two former military prison guards in a case involving two Bosnian Serb former prisoners of war who were held in secret detention by the Federation military between January 1996 and August 1997. The hearings are taking place before the Municipal Court in Zenica. My Special Representative had personally intervened with the Federation Government to ensure that the case would be brought before the judiciary as soon as possible.

Civil affairs

30. In addition to its daily activity of providing political advice to IPTF and the Office of the Special Representative, the UNMIBH Civil Affairs Office has been actively engaged in organizing and monitoring the production and distribution of the common license plates, as described above. Civil Affairs officers have also worked closely with IPTF on police restructuring in both the Federation and the Republika Srpska, as well as on matters relating to the de-certification of police officials. In order to enhance coordination, Civil Affairs officers have been deployed to work as advisers to the IPTF Commissioner and his Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

31. The Civil Affairs Office has also worked closely with the other international organizations operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Drvar, for example, the Civil Affairs Office and IPTF developed operational plans with SFOR, the Office of the High Representative, and UNHCR to cope with the large number of Serbs who returned in early spring. After the murder of two Serb returnees (see para. 23), the Office sent a number of its officers to Drvar in order to develop a greater understanding of the evolving crisis in that municipality. After the riot described earlier, Civil Affairs officers worked together with IPTF, SFOR, the Office of the High Representative and UNHCR to produce a cohesive strategy.

32. Civil Affairs officers are closely interacting with UNHCR and the return and reconstruction task forces throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. On a practical level, the good offices of Civil Affairs have, for example, enabled public companies from the Federation and the Republika Srpska to re-link water distribution and thereby improve the availability of water in Sarajevo.

Other activities

33. Press and Information officers have participated in the full range of UNMIBH activities by providing timely and accurate information to the local press and populace. One special project has been the support extended to the founding of a Republika Srpska Student Union radio station in Banja Luka.

34. The Trust Fund Unit financed 22 new small-scale projects in canton 9 and continued to support the reconstruction of medical services and public housing in Sarajevo. It has strengthened its partnership with SFOR, which is managing the reconstruction of primary schools and health clinics in Serb Sarajevo.

35. The Trust Fund for the Police Assistance Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a voluntary programme designed to solicit funding from Member States in order to modernize and improve the quality of the equipment as well as supplement the training received by officers from the Federation and Republika

Srpska police services. UNMIBH has identified 10 target areas for funding, including communications, forensic sciences, criminal investigations and police information management. Of the total contribution received in the Trust Fund as at the end of 1997 - $2,785,745 - 94 per cent has been obligated. Thus far in 1998 $5,354,303 have been received and are currently being programmed. In addition, $3,380,000 for the police development programme in the Federation have been provided bilaterally. Taking into consideration the contributions received by the Trust Fund and bilaterally, the shortfall for the police development programme stands at $55,766,000.

Administration of the Mission

36. During the reporting period, UNMIBH carried out an extensive evaluation of the role and operations of the Mission, which highlighted the need for greater coordination and sharing of information. In light of the reassessment, the new Commissioner has acted to shift emphasis from police monitoring to police development as the principal long-term goal of IPTF and to set clearer performance goals in order to measure progress on this and other IPTF objectives.

37. Because fresh responsibilities have been added to the role of IPTF by successive resolutions of the Security Council, the investigation of human rights violations, the development of local police and the monitoring of local police operational activity had unintentionally each developed separate lines of command. The Commissioner has now brought all three activities under the responsibility of the station and regional commanders reporting to the Deputy Commissioner (Operations). In the future, the latter will be held accountable for performance in these areas. For IPTF to be effective, better systems were needed for acquiring management information, reviewing all forms of internal training for monitors, investigating breaches of discipline and creating or implementing fresh operating procedures. New or improved units commanded by a second Deputy Commissioner (Operations Support) now exist to tackle these issues.

38. It is the intention of UNMIBH to make local police reform the principal long-term task of IPTF in the future. At the same time, IPTF will continue to play an operational role in monitoring the local police, including creating a secure environment for the return of displaced persons and refugees, dealing with illegal checkpoints, searching police stations and prisons for missing persons and investigating human rights violations. Misconduct in these areas will provide information about the type of additional training that is still required by the local police. Monitoring thus becomes a basis for police reform, and the results of the monitoring will feed directly into the reform efforts. At the same time, it will provide a means by which IPTF will be able to measure its performance and provide factual information to donor nations that progress is being made. Monitoring will also provide a sense of security to police officers from minority groups who are newly integrated in a formerly mono-ethnic police.

39. The most effective means of influencing local police reform is to co-locate selected IPTF monitors permanently with local chiefs of police or senior police officers in their place of work. By so doing, the IPTF monitors will be able to question directions and practices, know what additional training or equipment

offers the most value for the money and form an opinion about the professional competency of the senior officers. Where intimidation against minority returnees is locally significant and doubt exists about a local senior officer's integrity, it will be easier to judge if that officer is part of that conspiracy of intimidation or is indirectly contributing to it by professional negligence.

40. The Ministers of Interior of both the Republika Srpska and the Federation have consented to the proposal to co-locate monitors alongside senior police officers and to the placement of an IPTF monitor in their respective Ministries. Implementation of this initiative will require careful planning. To be productive, it is vital that IPTF monitors co-located with local chiefs of police command respect and possess appropriate experience and knowledge of policing. The IPTF Commissioner is currently reviewing whether a sufficient number of officers with the appropriate qualifications are available within IPTF.

III. FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTIONS 1144 (1997) AND 1168 (1998)

41. In my previous report (S/1998/227), I outlined UNMIBH planning for the implementation of the requests contained in the conclusions of the Bonn Peace Implementation Council meeting, as endorsed in resolution 1144 (1997). Subsequently, in resolution 1168 (1998), the Security Council authorized the increase in the number of IPTF officers that I had requested to carry out specialized training in a number of fields related to key public security issues. As detailed planning had already been undertaken, requests to Member States for the provision of specialized police officers to conduct the training were sent out one day after the Council's adoption of resolution 1168 (1998).

42. In the same resolution, the Security Council acknowledged that success in the area of police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina was closely linked to complementary judicial reform and agreed to consider expeditiously an UNMIBH-led court-monitoring programme as part of an overall programme as outlined by the Office of the High Representative. In this connection, the Council requested that I submit "recommendations on the possibility of utilizing locally hired personnel as far as is practical and of voluntary funding".

43. As Security Council members will recall, I have provided in some detail my thinking on the court-monitoring programme in my previous report (S/1998/227, paras. 44-46). The basic personnel structure would consist of three professional officers in each of the seven regions in the UNMIBH area of responsibility to carry out the actual monitoring and reporting, as well as five professional officers at headquarters to analyse the reports and liaise with the other organizations on the design and preparation of the training and restructuring programmes. In this structure, it would be feasible - and indeed desirable - to incorporate one national officer in each region and one national officer at headquarters. All teams would have to be adequately equipped and supported by an appropriate number of language assistants.

44. For practical reasons, and in view of the sensitive nature of the task, the national officers in the regions would not be primarily involved in the monitoring itself. They would rather be mainly responsible for liaison with the local judicial authorities and for advising the international monitors on local

juridical questions. At the same time, they could act as a focal point for the development in the region of the subsequent activities in the legal reform programme, including training and restructuring. The national officer at headquarters would participate in the broader assessment of the court system that would precede planning for future legal reform. He or she could also become the focal point for the subsequent training and restructuring activities.

45. As for the question of funding, I am aware that many troop- and police-contributing countries oppose the voluntary financing of mandated activities in United Nations peacekeeping operations. I share this view, as experience has shown that voluntary funding can be uncertain and is therefore not suited to financing mandated tasks. These tasks should be funded as an expense of the Organization.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

46. My Special Representative considers it of paramount importance to maintain and further develop a harmonious working relationship among the various United Nations agencies operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina through recognizing their common interests and concerns and coordinating their activities, in particular those aimed at elevating the status of human rights activities and working for better gender balance within the community of United Nations agencies. A key future task in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be the development of an educational curriculum that will eliminate hate propaganda in history and language, as well as in cultural and educational materials.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

47. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to address food security emergency needs and to coordinate activities in the agricultural sector. FAO also provides vital technical assistance and advice and continues its specialized seed quality control project, while its seed multiplication project is being phased out at the end of May 1998. FAO also continues discussions on adherence by seed laboratories in Bosnia and Herzegovina to International Seed Testing Agency (ISTA) standards, which would allow the country to issue international seed certificates after laboratory accreditation by ISTA and eventually to export seeds on the international market. FAO is presently assisting the Federation and the Republika Srpska Agricultural Ministries in formulating mid-term strategies for sustainable development in all domains of agriculture in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

48. The Sarajevo field office, one of the three field offices established by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, supports the investigative efforts of the Office of the Prosecutor in The Hague. During the reporting period, the Sarajevo field office coordinated local police (monitored by IPTF) and SFOR security for its 1998 summer exhumations programme, which gathers evidence in support of ongoing investigations. Following encouraging discussions between the authorities of the Republika Srpska and the Office of the Prosecutor, the Tribunal has taken steps to establish a coordination office in Banja Luka.

International Labour Organization

49. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has continued to focus on training the vulnerable unemployed in construction trades in the northwest of the Federation (funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)); training the unemployed in electrical and mechanical trades in Gorazde (funded by the Government of Japan and UNDP); promoting micro-enterprise development through the new business development centres near Brcko, Bihac and Banja Luka and preparing for the establishment of similar centres around Sarajevo (funded by the Government of Italy and UNDP); and promoting social dialogue (funded by the Government of Italy).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

50. In addition to its monitoring and reporting functions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to assess laws regulating the appointment of judges in the Federation. The report describing the main problems in that area is about to be finalized. The Office of the High Commissioner continued its activities in the judicial sector and participated in the establishment of an expert team to draft the new criminal code and criminal procedure code for the Republika Srpska. The Office continues its support for the human rights institutions established under the Dayton Agreement and has also contributed to monitoring the human rights aspects of the Sarajevo Return Declaration. The Office promotes implementation of gender-related activities within the United Nations agencies and initiated a specialized human rights training project for IPTF monitors.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

51. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued its efforts to implement Annex 7 of the Dayton Agreement. It is estimated that, since the beginning of the year, some 20,000 refugees and displaced people have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of these, only 230 people returned to the Republika Srpska. The number of displaced persons returning to their former homes since January 1998 is estimated at 3,840. Of this number, 2,000 returned to minority areas, with Drvar (estimated at 900) and Sarajevo (approximately 490) recording the highest numbers. UNHCR is concerned that fewer returnees are registering with the local authorities, often precluding their access to State-financed social services.

52. UNHCR continued to promote minority return through development of the "open cities" initiative. During the reporting period, UNHCR recognized the Federation city of Zenica as the eleventh "open city". UNHCR also promoted freedom of movement through its 24 inter-entity bus lines, which have transported 300,000 people across the inter-entity boundary line since the beginning of the year.

53. UNHCR continues, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Representative, to support the Republika Srpska and Federation ministries responsible for return and support of displaced persons. In March, the Federation finally passed housing legislation that brings it closer to compliance with the return guarantees included in Annex 7 of the Dayton Agreement. The Republika Srpska National Assembly is expected to consider draft

property legislation shortly. UNHCR is cooperating with the Office of the High Representative and the Council of Europe in assisting both entities to draft new legislation on citizenship, immigration and asylum.

United Nations Children's Fund

54. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to focus on its five ongoing programmes. In education, UNICEF promoted its interactive learning project in cooperation with universities, and purchased 10 world literature titles for distribution to all primary schools in both entities. UNICEF extended its psycho-social project to include training of teachers and psycho-pedagogues in secondary schools to address the needs of adolescents. Within its advocacy programme, UNICEF continued to train teachers on children's rights in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations. Large-scale training on leak detection and water quality monitoring proceeded under the UNICEF water and sanitation programme. UNICEF awarded the maternity wards of one hospital in east Mostar and another in west Mostar, the title of "baby-friendly hospital".

United Nations Development Programme

55. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to focus its activities on multi-sectoral area-based development programmes, supported by selected national sectoral projects and assistance to policy development. The integrated programmes aim to combine physical rehabilitation and socio-economic infrastructure with community development efforts to promote social cohesion and create an enabling environment for the returning refugees and displaced persons, and to ensure their smooth reintegration with the population at large. The programmes increasingly place responsibility for management of the services on local authorities. The UNDP Village Employment and Environment Programme is now being implemented on a large scale. As a short-term bridging measure, the programme provides limited employment for the war-affected population while being geared towards helping to improve the seriously damaged infrastructure and the environment. These activities are combined with vocational training programmes and small and medium enterprise development programmes to ensure sustainability.

56. Preparations for the handover of responsibilities for demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the United Nations to the Government are on track for a handover on 30 June 1998. With the Republika Srpska Decree having been signed on 23 April and the Federation Decree due for signature at the end of May, the legal steps necessary for the establishment of institutional structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina for demining will be completed. Both the Commission for Demining of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Board of Donors meet on a regular basis, focusing their work on the establishment of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre and Entity Mine Action Centres and the development of a National Mine Action Plan. The UNDP Resident Representative co-chairs the Board of Donors, together with the Military Adviser to the High Representative.

57. It is thus envisaged that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Programme will be fully established by mid-1998, incorporating and expanding the capacity already established by the Bosnia and Herzegovina/United Nations Mine Action Centre. The programme's activities will be undertaken through the Bosnia and

Herzegovina Mine Action Centre in Sarajevo, which is responsible for overall coordination and guidance of mine clearing actions in the country, and the mine action centres being established in each of the two entities, which will be responsible for coordination and implementation of mine clearance in their respective areas. The training of management personnel in government institutions to implement the four component programmes (mine awareness, minefield survey, mine clearance and training) is a critical component of the UNDP programme. The programme also provides for close monitoring and quality control of all activities.

58. The Bosnia and Herzegovina/United Nations Mine Action Centre has trained, equipped and is deploying 160 personnel to clear mines in four regions (Bihac, Banja Luka, Mostar and Tuzla). Sufficient funds for the deployment of these demining teams have been secured until the end of June. A special UNHCR contribution of $2.6 million to the UNDP Trust Fund enables six additional demining teams to operate. These have been trained and are currently working in UNHCR-designated priority areas and other selected minority returns areas. The activities related to updating the minefield database, as well as to the mine awareness campaigns, are being continued under the present transition phase (1 January-30 June 1998).

59. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Programme is financed with contributions from various donors through the UNDP Trust Fund for Mine Clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was instituted on 12 November 1997. As indicated in the United Nations consolidated appeal implementation report, $5.3 million have been received to date and $4.25 million are in the pipeline. UNDP, which is responsible for the management and coordination of this Trust Fund, urgently requires further new commitments to this programme.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

60. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is concentrating its efforts on the development of school curricula. In consultation with the Federation Ministry of Education and in cooperation with other international organizations, UNESCO has analysed humanities textbooks for primary and secondary schools in the Federation and prepared a proposal for the development of a curriculum. UNESCO has also finalized a status report on school reconstruction in the two entities. In the area of cultural heritage, the Organization is preparing a project to reconstruct the Old Town of Mostar. In cooperation with Bosnian officials, UNESCO has also prepared a study of cultural heritage legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist in drafting new laws in this field. In Gorazde, UNESCO will shortly open a centre, managed by a local non-governmental organization, devoted to educational assistance to displaced women, and it is preparing income-generating activities for the north-eastern area of the Federation and the Republika Srpska.

World Bank

61. The World Bank remains focused on the three facets of its reconstruction mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina: aid coordination, project implementation and economic policy advice. On 7 and 8 May, the World Bank co-hosted with the European Commission the fourth donor pledging conference in Brussels, where 48 countries and 30 organizations pledged an additional $1.25 billion. Donors

welcomed the cooperation between the Republika Srpska and Federation delegates and advocated financial support for programmes that facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons.

62. Implementation of the 22 projects funded and managed by the World Bank in all economic and social sectors is also proceeding well, and the $5.1 billion reconstruction programme approved after the Dayton Agreement remains on track. Overall, disbursements on the Bank's $435 million portfolio have now reached 80 per cent of commitments. In the Republika Srpska, the Bank intends to disburse $70 to $80 million this year for a reconstruction project and a pilot credit line to local enterprises, as well as for existing programmes. In the Federation, the Bank recently financed the rehabilitation of the Sarajevo gas system. A forestry project for both entities is expected to be approved shortly. After having funded housing reconstruction in UNHCR target return zones, job-creation programmes, micro-credit and local infrastructure, the Bank is now preparing a local development project to help municipalities obtain credit for priority social and economic infrastructure projects.

63. The World Bank also supports the transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina to a market economy through economic policy advice to the authorities, in particular in the fields of public finance management, bank restructuring and enterprise privatization. Its recommendations in these areas will shortly be supported by two major adjustment credits for more than $100 million to provide Bosnia and Herzegovina with necessary budget and balance-of-payment support.

World Food Programme

64. In March 1998, the World Food Programme (WFP) led a joint food aid needs-assessment mission to review the implementation of its current programme and the impact on overall food security and to assess future food aid needs. The mission concluded that the food aid programme should be phased out by mid-1999. In the intervening months, WFP will refine beneficiary criteria in line with current social welfare policy, thereby facilitating a smooth transition of beneficiaries to government welfare programmes. The introduction of new beneficiary criteria in July 1998 is expected to reduce the beneficiary caseload from 570,000 to an estimated 225,000. In 1998, WFP experienced difficulties in obtaining food aid from donors, and shortfalls have led to reduced rations. This is particularly unfortunate at a time when WFP is attempting to phase out its programme in a responsible manner. During the final phase of the programme, WFP will continue to support small-scale, short-term rehabilitation activities in the transition away from direct aid to self-sufficiency.

World Health Organization

65. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued to concentrate on supporting the entities' Ministries of Health in reforming programmes in health care delivery and preventive health. In the Republika Srpska, health authorities are developing detailed operational plans based on their Strategic Plan for Health Care Reform, approved in May 1997. WHO helped to develop the Federation Strategic Plan, which has been delayed mainly because of differences among Croat and Bosniac health authorities. WHO also continues to promote reconciliation by bringing together health professionals from different ethnic groups on a regular basis. WHO experts continued to train family medicine teams, led discussion in

a three-day seminar on domestic violence and helped local authorities address key public health issues, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, vaccination and environmental health. The first post-war joint Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation was formed to participate in the World Health Assembly, the annual global meeting of all WHO member States, in Geneva in May 1998.

V. OBSERVATIONS

66. UNMIBH will proceed with its programme to restructure the police services in the Federation and the Republika Srpska, but progress in implementing the programme will depend upon the ability of all members of the international community - the Member States, SFOR, the Office of the High Representative and the other international organizations operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina - to secure compliance of the parties with the commitments they made in the General Framework Agreement for Peace. Of particular significance is the close relationship UNMIBH enjoys with SFOR, not only because the latter provides the general security framework within which the international community operates, but also because of the increasing rate of return of displaced persons and refugees and the potential for turbulence those returns can engender.

67. Very regrettably, the last three months have seen an increase in violent incidents aimed at returning refugees and displaced persons, in particular those belonging to minority groups. At the same time, resistance towards integrating minority officers into the police force has continued, especially in the Croat-controlled areas of the Federation and in the Republika Srpska. Even in the Federation cantons where police forces have been inaugurated, a number of operational difficulties have slowed the realization of multi-ethnic police forces. It seems that a decisive effort will be needed over the next months to begin to reverse this situation. UNMIBH, and in particular IPTF, will do everything in its power to further advance the restructuring of the local police forces in order to help create confidence for returning minorities. However, it would be overly optimistic to expect a decisive change before the nationwide elections scheduled for 13 September 1998.

68. Meanwhile, the groundwork has been done in the Federation and the Republika Srpska to move forward on police reform. In the Federation, the Bonn-Petersberg Agreement provides a firm base and legitimate target figures for the future multi-ethnic police. Progress has been achieved towards that aim, although the difficulties of the last three months have shown that police reform needs patience and persistence. In the Republika Srpska, a point has now been reached where the authorities are willing to accept first steps towards the inclusion of minority officers in their police force. Integrating minority officers in police units in the Republika Srpska will establish an important precedent. However, as in the Federation, and perhaps even more so, patience and perseverance will be needed for decisive police reform in the Republika Srpska.

69. The role of IPTF is changing. Monitoring, observing and reporting will continue, but the shift towards training and advising in the field, and in particular the selection of monitors who can work permanently alongside local chiefs of police or inside ministries of interior, will require officers w sound professional skills and a confident grasp of democratic policing principles. The IPTF Commissioner is preparing new guidelines on criteria for

police monitors. In the meantime, however, Member States are invited to take note of the Commissioner's need for monitors with extensive operational experience, managerial knowledge and investigative skills. Security Council resolution 1168 (1998) recognizes the need for specialized IPTF monitors whose skills include substantive experience in organized crime, anti-corruption and drug control. In the meantime, IPTF will continue to assign monitors with detective skills to work on criminal investigations into serious violations of human rights.

70. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1168 (1998), UNMIBH is now prepared to move forward with a programme to monitor and assess the court system. This programme will include local professional expertise, both as a contribution to the monitoring activities and as a starting point for a subsequent reform programme.

71. I have been informed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary-General Javier Solana that the NATO military authorities have developed an operational plan for the continuation of a NATO-led multinational force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that this plan was endorsed by NATO Foreign Ministers on 28 May 1998. The plan builds on the success of SFOR. I was informed that the planned force has the same unity of command, the same robust rules of engagement and similar composition and size. The NATO Secretary-General assured me that the planned force would continue, within its means and capabilities, to provide broad support for the implementation of the civil aspects of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. He noted that NATO preparedness for the continuation of a NATO-led multinational force in Bosnia and Herzegovina is contingent on the necessary mandate from the Security Council. As I have stated in previous reports, I strongly believe that the presence of a credible military force is a pre-condition for the effective implementation of the mandate of UNMIBH and for further progress in the peace process in general.

72. On the assumption that there will be no significant changes to the security arrangements as currently provided by SFOR, I recommend that the mandate of UNMIBH be extended for an additional period terminating on 21 June 1999. Such a renewal would be a demonstration by the international community of its long-term commitment to the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on the security provided by SFOR, and with the political and financial backing of the Member States, UNMIBH can make a decisive contribution to peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina by helping to establish a multi-ethnic and democratic police at the service of all citizens and a judicial system that provides justice to all citizens without discrimination.

Annex

Composition of the International Police Task Force as at 31 May 1998[a]

Argentina	43
Austria	39
Bangladesh	30
Bulgaria	41
Canada	30
Chile	31
Denmark	39
Egypt	34
Estonia	9
Fiji	7
Finland	22
France	123
Germany	165
Ghana	86
Greece	15
Hungary	38
Iceland	2
India	142
Indonesia	22
Ireland	35
Italy	23
Jordan	156
Kenya	7
Malaysia	47
Nepal	42
Netherlands	55
Nigeria	19
Norway	24
Pakistan	95
Poland	42
Portugal	59
Russian Federation	36
Senegal	18
Spain	56
Sweden	50
Switzerland	2
Thailand	3
Tunisia	2
Turkey	27
Ukraine	36
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	60
United States of America	199
Total	2 011

[a] The number of civilian police monitors varies owing to rotations.

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